

RECREATION

— September 1944 —

"Trial by Youth"

By David Weiss

Not Too Old to Enjoy Life

By Jeanne H. Barnes

Recreation in Municipal Parks

By Milo F. Christiansen

It's Time to Plan for Halloween!

Recreation a Developing Profession

By Allan Krim, Ed.M.

RECREATION

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The Recreation Worker Starting a New Year

BE NOT ASHAMED or hesitant to call yourself a recreation worker.

You meet one of the earliest and most fundamental needs of men.

No king in ancient days had a more important place.

It is good to be a priest and help men see the meaning of life. It is good to be a doctor and keep men well. It is good to be a teacher and make it easy for men to acquire knowledge and wisdom. It is good to be a farmer and feed men, a laborer and build homes. It is good to be doing something that always and everywhere, from the beginning of time to eternity, is central, deep, real, unquestioned by those who are wise. Few are the tasks that qualify for this. Of these few one is recreation leadership.

Men must eat, must have a place to sleep, need help to keep well, need to keep their souls alive, need to study, learn, need to work. But the child and the man also need to have fun, simple fun. They need to laugh, to sing, to pretend, not to be too serious all the time. There is rhythm inside man which needs to come out. Man was made to swim, to skate. Eating and sleeping and learning mean nothing if a child or a man has lost his essential nature and become just a bit of machinery.

You do not need to prove to the child that baseball, swimming, skating, just having fun is important. The child would think you crazy if you tried to prove it. He knows he has to breathe, eat and have fun.

The wise men have seen and been sure as have the little children that simple fun, abundant living, is important. Dr. L. P. Jacks, great Oxford scholar, editor for years of the *Hibbert Journal*, recognized as one of the great educators and thinkers of this generation, said: "I am more interested in what you are doing in the recreation movement in America than in anything else in the world."

Right down in the grass roots, on the soil in the neighborhood is where it is of supreme importance to help children and all people cooperatively to arrange times and places so that always in his free time the child and the man shall be able to do what he most wants to do just for fun. If we make it easy for the Tom Sawyers and the Huckleberry Finns and all of us to live gloriously—to fish, to hunt, to sail, to swim, when we have a little time for ourselves—then many ills that come from stagnant life are less likely to appear. The substantial people of the United States now recognize that we should not leave to the devil the simple good fun which belongs to the Lord.

The recreation worker is important. Helping to make all life glorious, challenging, absorbing, vital, is no mean task for the best and the wisest.

HOWARD BRAUCHER

September



Courtesy Virginia State Chamber of Commerce

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The Daytona Beach Youth Council

By RUBY LEE GOLDMAN and PATRICIA GARDNER

IN PLANNING for Daytona Beach's Youth Center, the City Recreation Board requested high school teachers, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. secretaries to select four representative students from each of the last four grades of the three local high schools. On Wednesday, August 6, 1941, the students so selected met with their sponsors and the city Recreation Board, and after being asked what recreation they wished, the high school students prepared a list of activities and projects desired by them.

So it was that a Youth Council was formed to provide recreation and better recreation facilities and to create and maintain higher ideals while following a threefold program of (1) education, (2) civic youth participation, and (3) planned and supervised recreation.

The Council was composed entirely of young people between fourteen and nineteen with an adult advisory board composed of individuals and representatives of various organizations interested in young people. The guiding spirit of the whole movement since its inception has been W. J. Gardiner, a Daytona Beach attorney, who has the welfare of youth as one of his primary interests.

At legislative meetings held weekly on Wednesday evenings, the students formulate their own plans and appoint committees to execute plans. From the beginning the Council has served as a training ground for civic leaders. It has brought together students from all our high schools and given them an opportunity to know each other and cooperate on a city-wide basis.

Finding a Home

From the start the need of a center for youth was a matter of prime

The story of the Youth Center of Daytona Beach, Florida, as told by two members of its Youth Council

importance. The shuffleboard clubhouse, which is vacant two months of every year, was the first place used. Here the Council organized dances and all-

day fun fests supervised by adults interested in the Youth Council program. These first get-togethers were an amazing success, so when it was time to move out of the shuffleboard clubhouse, the city let the Youth Council use the City Island Casino for dances and programs.

A bazaar, the proceeds of which went to the Red Cross, was the next big 1941 project of the Youth Council. During the summer, beach picnics were popular. A softball league was formed and nine teams were in the competition for championship. Classes in sports and dancing were started under the guidance of skilled men and women. The Youth Council produced two highly successful plays exhibiting experience in acting, make-up, and stage setting.

In the summer of 1943 the city provided money for a trained director and current expenses. At this time the Youth Council moved again. The owners loaned to the Youth Council the Pier Casino, a former night club situated on the long fishing pier over the ocean. Here, despite the nightly blackout, dances and parties were often in progress. An orchestra of Youth Council members was formed which played once a week for dances. Members of the Council made ping-pong tables and provided table games. Several of the boys took over the soft drink concession and the setup was nearly ideal.

A questionnaire was submitted to each of the high school students in September 1943, asking for information about how the student spent his leisure time and about what activities he would like

Daytona Beach has always had the subject of recreation very much at heart. For many years seekers after health and pleasure have found them here during the entire year, and the City Commission, through the Recreation Board, has spent large sums of money to provide recreation. There was one group, however, that felt neglected—the youth of high school age. So they held panel discussions in school and before civic clubs in the hope of reaching the ears of the City Commission and Recreation Board, and they were successful. In the summer of 1941 the Recreation Board took action.



Governor Holland and his wife attended the dedication of the "Drop-In" and were very active in the proceedings. "This is too fine an occasion to spoil it with speaking," said the Governor, "so on with the dance."

made available by the Youth Council for subsequent recreation activities.

The owners of the Pier Casino wanted to use the building this past winter, so the boys and girls of the Youth Council were once more without a place to meet and have good times. They wanted a real "drop-in" near the center of town, easily accessible to all.

Permanently Located at Last!

The Y.M.C.A. came to the rescue with an empty store and a large garage adjoining it. This was it! Something they could all help change into a clubhouse of their own! Work began immediately, with students from three high schools coming on Saturday and Sunday afternoons to sandpaper, wash, plaster, paint, and otherwise remodel the building. Members of the Adult Advisory Board helped supervise and order material. Financial support was given by the city, individuals, and clubs.

The store building, which was long and narrow, was converted to a lounge in the front and a game room in the back. Wicker furniture, donated by clubs, was enameled with bright green, yellow, or red paint and slip-covers were made. Curtains were provided by members of the Adult Advisory Board. Walls and woodwork were done in ivory. The girls' powder room was painted peach and blue and dressed up with chintz. The garage with a cement floor was turned into the "Jive Dive," a room for dancing. Soft green paint decorates the walls and snack bar. Bright yellow and white

checked curtains and a yellow awning over the snack bar serve to brighten the room.

Work was rushed to a high peak when Senator Claude Pepper and Governor Spessard Holland were expected to visit the city. Instead of having work parties once each week, the students joined with their new director and members of the Advisory Board in working daily after school. On February 1, 1944, the finishing touches were completed and a large group assembled in the afternoon to meet Senator Claude Pepper. Senator Pepper was so pleased with the project that he requested this history be written and sent to him for filing with the United States Senate Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education of which he is chairman. The following evening an opening reception and dance was held with Governor and Mrs. Holland and members of the City Commission as special guests.

Some of the Activities

The "Drop-In" has proved to be a grand success, and is open six afternoons and four nights a week. It is fast becoming a favorite spot of the younger set. Membership cards at twenty-five cents per year are issued, and everyone is happy. This small charge was voted by the Youth Council to give the members a sense of belonging and to create a fund for contest prizes.

The next projects will be the building of an outdoor fireplace and the construction of badminton and volley ball courts in the rear of the building.

Ping-pong tournaments and tennis lessons are now in progress. It is hoped that as time goes on more hobby groups can be established under volunteer leadership. The Junior Red Cross sends an adult leader once a week to assist students in making scrapbooks for military hospitals.

In November 1943, the Youth Council adopted a formal charter providing for representation from each school in proportion to its size, on an administrative board. This charter was put in effect in February 1944. The Administrative Board continues to meet each Wednesday night, and jointly with the Adult Advisory Board every three months. Some of the adult advisors usually meet with the Administrative Board and the officers of the Youth Council attend the monthly meetings of the Youth Council Adult Advisory Board.

The Adult Advisory Board also has a constitution which correlates with the Youth Council charter. This Board meets the fourth Tuesday of each month and makes suggestions on matters of policy and arranges to have adult hosts and hostesses to assist the director in social events. Youth Council members are welcome to meet with the Administrative Board and the Advisory Board.

The city furnishes most of the money required for the Youth Council; however, some individuals and several civic clubs have made donations of time and

money to the Youth Council project. Partly, it is believed, as a result of the Youth Council, Daytona Beach has one of the lowest juvenile delinquency records of any city in the South.

The teen-agers of West Orange, New Jersey, have caught the alphabetical fever and have named their canteen "WOTAC," the letters standing for "West Orange Teen Age Canteen."

Sponsored by the War Services Division of the West Orange Defense Council, the canteen provides a meeting place for boys and girls fifteen years of age and over. Headquarters are in the auditorium of one of the schools, and the canteen is open every Friday and Saturday night from 8 to 11 P.M. The young people have decorated the auditorium, adopting a motif of red, white, and blue. Blue drapes have been hung at the windows, and a set of wicker furniture has been painted red.

Approximately 225 boys and girls paid their membership dues of 50 cents for the month of March, and a goodly number of guest fees were received. A paid director has been placed in charge with the hearty cooperation of the teen-agers themselves.

Interestingly enough, the teen-agers voted not to have the traditional juke box, and use a victrola which plays eight records in succession.

They all worked hard getting things shipshape for their famous visitors



Juvenile Delinquency—A Challenge to Music

THE RECENT exchange of verbal brickbats between Artur Rodzinski and Frank Sinatra on the subject of current styles in popular music and their possible contribution to juvenile delinquency raises a serious issue that has wanted attention for some time. Dr. Rodzinski declared "the style

of boogie woogie which appeals to hep cats is the greatest cause of delinquency among American youth today," to which Mr. Sinatra retorted: "I don't know exactly what the causes of juvenile delinquency are, but I don't think any one can prove that popular music is one of them." Subsequently, other musicians, including Leopold Stokowski, have added their voices variously to the controversy.

We hold no brief for the swooner-crooner nor for most of the things he represents, musically. But we think he has a better case in this instance than the distinguished conductor of the Philharmonic, and we think he has placed the burden of responsibility where it belongs. The response of modern juvenilia to swing and boogie woogie is not basically different, in kind or purport, from the physical reactions to rhythm of the first man who struck the first drum at the dawn of civilization, of the be-wigged courtier who pranced to the minuet, the Viennese who whirled to the waltz or the Hungarian who toed the Czardas. An emotional catharsis through music, of whatever stamp, is neither degenerate nor malicious. To say so is a tactical error in the approach to the whole problem of musical illiteracy and places the accuser in a virtually indefensible position.

Moreover, Dr. Rodzinski misses one of the principal implications of his charge: if popular music is contributing to juvenile delinquency, what is serious music doing to correct the condition? In our opinion, it is doing very little; certainly far less than it can and should. The social aspects of music have been far too little exploited in the interest of social enlightenment and progress, especially among children growing up under present war conditions. There are, of course, the traditional concerts for young people presented by our symphony orchestras and other organizations. Some groups, including the National Music League, are

What is your opinion of the relationship of popular music to juvenile delinquency? A number of leaders in the musical world have been discussing the subject recently, and they haven't always agreed! *Musical America*, in an editorial in the January 25th issue, made such an interesting contribution to the subject that we secured permission to reprint it in *RECREATION*.

planning redoubled efforts to engage the passive interest of restless youth in abnormal times. These are laudable projects as far as they go. But they do not go far enough.

Action is the keynote of youth, and active participation in educative musical projects could be a powerful antidote

for the mischievous forces which axiomatically find work for idle hands. Within every community there are organizations qualified to sponsor and supervise after-school and evening music activity programs—choruses, glee clubs, bands, orchestras, musical entertainments, operettas and the like. Most music clubs, public schools and similar institutions have at their command the necessary facilities and personnel to conduct such activities, and they could do a tremendous morale job on the home front if they put that machinery to work on an all-out basis.

It will be said that such activities already are available to children under school auspices. But the trouble is that most school projects are carried on during school hours, leaving the time between the dismissal bell and bedtime unoccupied, and that they are only open to, or at least only attractive to, children with some special musical talent or interest. The activities we contemplate would be open to all children and would appeal to them on a social as well as a musical basis. And they would take place in those twilight hours that represent such a dangerous void for unguided youngsters in war-disrupted families.

In sponsoring such programs, people sincerely interested in the propagation of serious music would not only perform a magnificent service for their communities but would also be paying comparatively light premiums on a large insurance policy against the day when these children will have become adults and taken their place in the cultural life of the community. People who come to know and love music in childhood seldom desert it in later life. For them there will be no moot points as to the social significance of different types of music and there will be no need for the Rodzinski or the Sinatra of their day to tell them what music is doing to them.

Recreation in Municipal Parks

DESPITE WAR problems and restrictions "Recreation in Municipal Parks" has been a vital factor in maintaining community morale, community discipline and community solidarity. Thousands of children, youth, and adults have discovered or re-discovered the fact that the parks have a wide range of facilities and activities which provide for the keen enjoyment of everyone.

Rarely does the local park planner or park executive post "Keep off the grass" signs. He, like the recreation executive, is anxious that parks render maximum services while protecting the natural features and landscape qualities. Marked strides have been made during the past decade to provide additional recreational services in municipal parks. Opportunities have been made available by the planner and the landscape architect through increased understanding and appreciation of public needs. Facilities have been designed and sections or portions of park areas have been set aside so that nature's gifts will receive only a minimum of abuse. On the other hand many park departments own or control extensive properties, some of

By MILO F. CHRISTIANSEN
Superintendent of Recreation
Washington, D. C.

Some extracts from an address given at the National War and Peace Fitness Conference held under the auspices of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, meeting in New York City, April 24-27, 1944.

which were selected and developed for active recreational use.

Types of Facilities and Activities

In many of the larger municipal parks one will find almost every facility and activity from the intensive to the extensive types of passive

and active recreation. While it may seem unnecessary to describe park recreation, it is interesting to observe that a wide array of opportunities may be found which cover a broad field of human interests. Moreover, the quality and quantity of park recreational resources have been made effective by an increased recognition of qualified recreation leadership. In some communities the program has extended beyond the confines of the park properties and has led to operation on a community-wide basis.

An unfortunate condition exists in most communities in that citizens and public officials are uninformed as to available resources. Persons who have resided in a community for several years are often the poorest informed. Constant effort must be made to familiarize the citizenry with existing

Parks of Mesa, Arizona, are used for many purposes. This group is enjoying a picnic.



and proposed facilities. Most recreation officials now recognize that attitudes determine recreational interests. "Activities" is a term for classifying them once they have been established. An exhaustive list of "activities" or "attitudes" will not be attempted here. Only the well-established will be referred to in this presentation.

Picnicking. Most commonly accepted park diversions are individual and group picnicking. This necessitates running water, firewood, fireplaces, tables, benches, and sanitation. Then there are canoeing, boating on lakes, streams or the ocean front, also swimming, diving, and water sports. At many parks where there are no natural swimming facilities pools have been installed. There is hiking along park trails or through the woods; horseback riding on bridle paths; tennis, golf, archery, baseball, horseshoes, bowling on the green, trap shooting; dancing and roller skating at outdoor lighted pavilions; observing various types of wildlife or plantlife; participating in plays, pageants or operettas in the outdoor or sylvan theaters; and enjoying the beauty of the park landscape. The increased popularity of winter sports has opened new areas of interest on park properties which previously had been unused during cold weather. Then, too, there are playgrounds for children, some of which are provided with equipment, sandboxes, spray and wading pools.

Day Camps. A fast growing and popular recreation program is the increase in the provision of day camps. Park officials have been quick to realize the far-reaching value of the day camp program which differs considerably from the playground program in the experiences and opportunities made available to youth. Typical programs include flag-raising, overnight camping, outdoor cooking, hiking, map-making, nature study, outdoor crafts, camp clean-up and routine. Here youth assemble under qualified leadership to learn of nature's gifts and methods of adapting one's self to outdoor conditions.

While it is true that for the park official day camps increase problems related to sanitation and protection of the landscape, individual and group benefits derived far outweigh vandalism and destruction. Park planners have skillfully laid out areas

in naturalistic surroundings. A sense of being far away from the humdrum of traffic and gasoline odors is created although the "day campers" may be only a few minutes' hike away from public transportation and probably less than an hour's time away from home.

The war has been directly responsible for a rapid growth in the day camp's popularity. Many youth who previously attended vacation group camps have found them no longer available because of transportation, personnel, and ration difficulties.

Park Recreation for Servicemen. Servicemen in the army camps have been among the most constant users of our parks. Here service personnel can participate in active forms of recreation or they can stretch out on the grass, or under the trees, and gaze up into the sky—removed from all forces of regimentation and formality. The girl friend's Kodak and a few sandwiches often add to the enjoyment of the occasion!

Many communities have organized various entertainments, community sings, and band concerts. Park officials have bent every effort to provide pleasure for service personnel and also the war worker.

Parks More Widely Used

Travel restrictions, gasoline and tire rationing have stimulated increased use of our parks. The vacationer, the week-end recreation seeker, have discovered that there is a wealth of recreational opportunities in their own backyard. By the same token, citizens have been quick to realize park recreation deficiencies. Generally speaking, however, the war is having a beneficial effect in pointing to the need for permanent provision of a wide array of recreational services, as well as additional acreage.

But the park administrator has felt the war-created problems too. Lack of manpower, difficulties in securing certain equipment, supplies, and materials are only a part of the headaches. Increased demands have aggravated the condition so that park maintenance, construction and development have been most difficult.

It is interesting to note that most park and recreation budgets have "held their own." Some have

Mr. Christiansen stresses the fact that the term "juvenile delinquency" has been used so carelessly in its relation to recreation that to many people delinquency and recreation are synonymous. "Nothing could be more unfortunate," he says. "Recreation, the newest member of the community family, has become a full-grown child, able to see to its own subsistence and nourishment. It does not need to ride the juvenile delinquency band wagon. It has established itself as a natural, normal, and healthy individual. It is taking its place in the community family along with education and health."

increased their annual appropriations to provide for increased needs.

Trends in Physical Education

The surprising facts revealed by the Army and Navy regarding poor health and physical conditions of our youth are of major concern to all youth-serving agencies and organizations. Certain trends may be noted.

It has recently been reported that since Pearl Harbor there has been marked increase in the provision of physical education for boys and girls. In a recent survey report made by Dr. David Brace and Miss Dorothy LaSalle of the Office of Education, it is learned that there are significant trends which we as public officials should note. More boys and girls are required to take physical education training and additional periods and extension of hours have been made. There has been a marked trend in accelerating the more active and strenuous types of physical training, including swimming and lifesaving instruction. There is a tendency to decrease the teaching of skills for the less strenuous activities. There is a marked increase in health education instruction.

In analyzing these trends, it is reasonable to assume that our youth will demand additional park facilities which provide for the more active types of recreation. Recreation activities of the physical and body contact types should increasingly be considered by the park and recreation planners.

Transition-Postwar Planning Period

The average person interprets the period following the signing of the World War II peace treaties as the postwar period. While technically correct, if our planning of postwar programs is limited to an approximate date this interpretation is inadequate. We are now in a transition period. Over a million servicemen have returned to civilian life because of injuries, rejections, and for other reasons. Many communities have already closed out or are reducing armament production. Immediate plans should be made for what is now going on.

A significant defect in community planning is the lack of effective methods or devices by which responsible agencies or individuals can pool their technical experience and knowledge. This accounts for the lack of quality as well as quantity in our recreational resources.

One of the facts to keep in mind in a consideration of municipal parks and the recreation activities they provide is that in 1940 there were over 400,000 acres of park property in 1,200 communities. Over a third of this acreage has been acquired in the last 15 years.

in which the schools, the parks, and the recreation agencies each acts independently.

The public works program following the cessation of hostilities—and almost everyone admits that there will be one—will provide funds for those communities that have actually completed plans and specifications so that immediate employment and work projects can commence. But who usually gets the lion's share of these funds? The highway, street, and sewer departments, the health and the welfare departments, are usually the recipients. These are all worthwhile and essential community services. But provision of recreational opportunities too many times has been at the bottom of the priority list. So it behooves every public official who is interested in providing recreation to take immediate steps to see that his own community contrives to have plans and specifications completed before the public works program becomes a reality.

We are fortunate in our city in that a regular and effective device is in operation whereby key officials of the various administrative agencies meet regularly to process plans for recreational needs in the parks, the municipal playgrounds, the school buildings and school playgrounds, and the housing projects. This device is our Coordinating Committee on Recreation Plans which is composed of public school officers including the directors of physical education, the planning and executive officials of the Parks office, the Municipal Architect's representative, planners from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the municipal repair shop engineer, the Recreation Department officials, the executive secretary of the recreation division of the Council of Social Agencies.

There have been suggestions of late encouraging communities to construct useful types of "memorials" and "monuments" after the war. Experience has proved too often in the past that millions of dollars have been collected or solicited for memorials which have no useful purpose except to com-

(Continued on page 335)

What They Say About Recreation

"**L**IFE CANNOT BE RICH and wholesome unless it includes play."—Howard W. Hopkirk in *Institutions Serving Children*.

"We have everything that it takes for a truly great movement in art; and when the war is over, if our artists work side by side with the moral courage shown by our soldiers, we shall have a lasting victory in an art designed for and by a democratic nation."—Thomas Craven in *The Story of Painting*.

"Sport carries the patterns of behavior that come out of the culture in which it grows."—From *Sports: Their Organization and Administration*, by Jesse F. Williams and William L. Hughes.

"My heart, which is full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary."—Martin Luther.

"Handicraft is not one subject or phase of accomplishment. It is a vast network of interrelated trails that lead into almost every gateway that human knowledge has opened."—Ellsworth Jaeger.

"While workers toil for victory, recreation offers them one of the few areas of freedom left in a world mobilized for war. This sphere of freedom they cherish, not only for themselves alone but for their children as well."—From *Spare Time, A War Asset for War Workers*.

"With real freedom go a sense of obligation and responsibility which are not accompaniments of uninhibited, uncontrolled, and undirected instincts."—Dr. William Fleck.

"Reading, for young children, is rarely a pleasure in isolation, but comes through shared pleasure and constant, discerning exposure to books so that they fall naturally into the category of pleasant necessities, along with food, sleep, music, and all out-of-doors."—Annis Duff in *Bequest of Wings*.

"Make way for the dance! See if it does not repay a thousandfold. It will enlarge the horizon, give meaning to many things now hidden, new power to the self, a new value to existence."—Ruth St. Denis.

"Sport, which keeps the flag of idealism flying, is perhaps the most saving grace in the world at the moment, with its spirit of rules kept and regard for the adversary, whether the fight is going for or against."—John Galsworthy.

"Let us so construct and conduct our camps that the greatest amount of wholesome and democratic living will accrue to each individual."—L. B. Sharp.

"America must be made a nation of communities in which satisfying home life is experienced by an ever-increasing number of individuals."—Bernice Baxter and Rosalind Cassidy in *Group Experience—The Democratic Way*.

"The city can no longer forget its obligation to its children and its duty to the future. It must bind all efforts toward success."—Lois Sager, in *Preventing Wartime Delinquency*.

"In times like these when dependence must be placed upon qualities of courage and readiness for sacrifice, every ennobling influence that stimulates these qualities must be brought to bear. Music in wartime has this very special place."—K. D. Scott in *Games and Songs in Wartime*.

"A club needs programs and activities which are alive and varied if it is to retain the interest of its members over a period of time. . . ."—From *Y Boys' Clubs*.

"Passive happiness is slack and insipid and soon grows mawkish and intolerable. Some austerity and wintry negativity, some roughness, danger, stringency and effort must be mixed in to produce the sense of existence with character, texture, and power."—William James.

"Good sportsmanship and enthusiastic interest in games and sports are among our cherished American ideals, for they promote good social attitudes, physical skill, and stamina—all important attitudes in a democracy."—From *Leadership of Girl Scout Troops*.

"Competitive games, team games, as we've known them in our nation, have always developed the will to win in our nation."—Captain A. W. Radford.



The Girl He Left Behind

By MADELENE F. COOK



No, it isn't a rolling pin, and Mother isn't chasing Dad with it. She's trying to "beat the ball" to first base. Mother is playing baseball.

WHAT ABOUT the girl he left behind, the wife he left behind, or the girl current music says would "be so nice to come home to"? What is she going to do with her spare time?

"Stay at home in your own backyard" or "Hoe your victory garden" have become practical war slogans, but the teen age and the twenty-year-old youth of America don't want to stay at home doing this all the time. Thousands of young people, girls, and women are now working between high school and college terms with no vacation when they never worked before. Everyone is working overtime. Working is a wonderful experience, but after a while everything gets boring because Johnny's gone off to the war and even Dad may have gone. Young girls graduated from high school regret that high school parties are no more. They are talking in the past tense.

"Gee, we used to have so much fun dancing at the Sandwich Shop. I remember that day we drove over to the lake—and remember, Jimmy threw me in the water," is the typical conversation.

They're getting old dreaming in the past and sitting at home nights reading their magazines. Their mothers and dads are getting very old listening to "I used to" stories and missing the members of their families who are gone, when they could be doing something to keep their home life normal for the time when Johnny comes marching home.

Social life and recreation are missing from our once normal life in the community and family. In many communities where there are no servicemen stationed, young girls and women are working and no

longer dating, dancing, or going to parties as they would in peacetime. In the absence of our country's young men, parents, as well, no longer have the same social or family life.

Sports would be the answer for a recreational outlet except that few civilians now have leisure hours during the day. In places where servicemen have been stationed the answer to entertainment for them has been almost entirely in terms of a dance.

Bring the family to the local playground or a vacant lot to watch the new baseball team after dinner tonight. Ask some servicemen, too, but bring the whole family. The baseball is modified to a softball game because dads are playing daughters, sons are up to bat against fathers, or teen age girls are playing with the Army.

A Co-Rec Evening

The Women's Recreational Association of the Pennsylvania State College made a success of an evening of sports which they called a "Co-Rec Evening" because men and women participated in the same activities. It featured a softball game with a marine-coed team playing a sailor-coed team. Both men and women competed in the badminton, archery, ping-pong, bridge, and volley ball games that were set up out of doors on Holmes Field. Servicemen and civilian students training at the College entered into the fray as first basemen or as cheering spectators. Standing,

This article is based on the Co-Rec Evening of sports sponsored by the Women's Recreational Association of Pennsylvania State College. It concerns itself with the maintenance of a normal social life—thus with the normal family life of the wives, families, and sweethearts of servicemen.

playing, or sitting watching, they stayed until dark on the grassy field.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to baseball," announced a poster advertising the Co-Rec Evening which was held from 7:00 until dark. But the team used a softball, and five coeds with five marines on one team batted against five coeds and five V-12 sailors on the other. The coeds played the second and third bases and the outfield. Marines or Navy men played first base, pitcher, and catcher.

The badminton courts kept eight persons at a time busy retrieving shuttlecocks, and others engaged in watching. Because the courts were to be used only temporarily outside, they were lined with lime. This can be done with an ordinary tin can punched with holes about three inches across and filled with lime or flour. Shake the can and it will make a line the same width all along the edge of the court. The softball diamond can be lined in the same way.

There was plenty of room for ping-pong tables, but a space nineteen by ten feet will be room enough in which to play, for the average ping-pong table is nine by five feet wide. Some bridge enthusiasts and a few people who were not too anxious to run after a ping-pong ball or a shuttlecock filled up one bridge table, drank cokes and played until dark.

Others were more interested in the sports, and played volley ball or shot arrows into the row of targets thirty feet away. The archery range was lined up so that the arrows that missed the targets went into the ground in the field in back of them. Targets should not be placed against buildings because the arrows may bounce back from the walls or break.

Members of the Archery Club, the Badminton, and Bridge Clubs of Pennsylvania State College arranged for their respective entertainments and were present to help anyone who wanted to know the rules or needed instruction in playing certain games. The Women's Recreational Association is a women's student organization which planned the event independently. It has been an annual event for many years.

Everyone on the block, and the next block, too, can come to a party of co-recreational sports such as the one planned by these students. After long hours in a defense plant, nineteen-year-old Mary

can leave an evening of sitting on the front porch and watching the sun go down, for an evening of fun with her whole family. Mary will try swinging a baseball bat if she doesn't already know how. She'll find out that her "kid" brother and her father are more fun than she thought.

Equipment for the sports can usually be obtained from high school gyms or private homes, if your recreation center does not have it.

Every boy wants to prove that his Dad can play baseball and most every Dad wants to prove that his pitching arm is still pretty good. Pennsylvania State students enjoyed watching the girls play against men, and spectators were surprised and enthusiastic when the girls knocked a few balls far out in the outfield.

Dad and Mother want to take a try at hitting the bull's-eye and want to see if they can swing a badminton racquet. They may even give their neighbor some fast returns with a ping-pong paddle. They may settle down to bridge, coke, and cookies after awhile, but they'll take to sports quite seriously with their families cheering.

Several of the sailors and marines on the softball teams play baseball for the College, but the coed members of the team didn't seem to slow the game up any. The spectators drew a quick breath when one coed tried to steal a base and returned to the base just in time to beat the ball. The game is much more exciting when stealing bases is allowed and when those watching don't have to wait for the pitcher to practice putting a ball over the plate. Only one or two practices may be enough to show Mother or Sister how to throw a straighter ball and how to swing a bat.

Some of the youngest children won't be able to take part in these more adult sports but they'll like watching them. Miniature horseshoe games and croquet will keep them busy until long after dark if they're fed cookies and a little ice cream.

A "coke bar" served as refreshment at the Co-Rec Evening. Refreshments, especially some sort of cool drink such as lemonade or punch, should be prepared to quench the thirst of the players and satisfy the always hungry children.

If the evening doesn't last long enough because of darkness, lights can be strung outdoors by means of extension cords tacked onto the badminton posts or the side of a near-by house.

A Canteen for Teen-Agers

By DOROTHY M. WOLFF

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY and what could be done to alleviate it in a community which takes in three parts of Philadelphia known as Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissahickon—that was the problem facing the Community Council of Philadelphia's twenty-first ward.

But it didn't take the Council long to find a solution to this problem—a canteen for the teen age children. In no time at all there was a committee composed of high school students and women in the community who were willing to work.

Provided with \$60 from the Community Council, the committee set out to find a place to house their canteen. A local recreation center was chosen and decorated to resemble a real canteen.

One of the mothers on the committee headed a sub-committee on decoration and enlisted the services of a local commercial artist and of her own husband, a local hardware man. The artist suggested striped paper awnings over office windows and flower boxes underneath, lattice work, white fences, artificial Virginia creepers, and a bandstand built on the stairway in graduated

levels. The lattice work was all donated by a local lumber company. A soda bar was rigged up surrounded by a dozen tables covered with red, white, and blue oil-cloth with pennants of the local schools decorating the walls. Smoking is permitted, but is confined to the soda bar. The committee decided that if the young people weren't allowed to smoke they'd go where they could. It was soon discovered that granting the privilege has removed some of its attraction as forbidden fruit, and smoking is really very moderate in the canteen.

There's a game room with three ping-pong tables, checkers, plain and Chinese, and shuffleboard. The teen-agers find this room a fine place to get acquainted with each other, especially before the dancing gets into full swing—and the game room is usually crowded all evening.

When music was needed a student orchestra came forward and rehearsed every night for two weeks before the opening. As a fill-in during intermissions there is a juke box loaned by a man in the community. Roxborough High School supplied its amplifying system, making it

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Photo by R. D. Fraser, Bradford, Pa.

The Blair Community Center

By CAROLINE F. NEHMER

Principal, Austin-Blair Elementary School
Jackson, Michigan

WHEN THE teachers of the Austin-Blair Elementary School in Jackson, Michigan, realized last year that a recreation center for children was a definite community need for the long summer months ahead, they lost no time in finding out just how they could meet this need. Several months later, these same people could point proudly to the Blair Community Center at the Blair school where youngsters from about 10 to 12 years of age, and preschool children, too, gathered for supervised play under the experimental project.

But the Center didn't become a reality over night, for there were many difficulties in the way. Blair School is located at the very edge of the city and in an area where the delinquency rate was unusually high. Many of the students' parents are factory workers who, during the school months, adjusted their working shifts in such a way that at least one of them would be home at the time when the children were not in school. However, during the summer months many of these children were left more or less on their own.

One of the first steps taken to relieve this situation was to conduct a survey in an attempt to determine the actual needs of the children during the summer months. When the survey was completed and the data compiled, a Council, consisting of two representatives from each room in Blair School, was organized.

The Council met weekly with the school's principal to discuss interests and needs and to make recommendations. The representatives kept their classmates informed on the plans and progress of the project and all the school children were invited to make suggestions and recommendations to the representatives who, in turn, presented them at meetings.

In this way the entire school had an active part in the planning and organization of the project.

Once the planning was well underway, the next problem—and no small one—was how to finance such a project.

In past years there had always been a playground supervisor during the summer months, but this worker was usually a stranger in the community and therefore not too well acquainted with the individual children and their needs. In view of this, it seemed desirable to have at least one person on the staff who was well acquainted with the individual and group needs of the community. After investigations were made, the principal was invited to explain the plans for the community center to the Executive Board of the Jackson Recreation Council.

The Board voted unanimously to finance and aid the proposed plans and the principal was appointed to act as supervisor with two assistants. The project was to be experimental, and the supervisors were free to work out their programs in the best way to meet the needs of the community.

A period was set aside for reading in the library of the Blair Community Center, and guidance in reading was given if a child requested it



Gedge Harmon

Before the planners could go any further, more information was necessary, so a questionnaire was prepared by the principal and distributed to every family who had a child in school. Through the cooperation of the teachers and parents almost ninety-eight per cent of these questionnaires were filled out and returned.

Some of the questions included were: "Do you plan for your children to be on the playground this summer?" "What hours during the day would you like your children to be on the playground?" "Would you like to have your children stay for lunch?"

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It's Time to Plan

A HALLOWEEN parade has become a traditional activity of the Brattleboro, Vermont, Recreation Department. In 1943 it was the first community activity which the new superintendent was to direct, and the co-operation of the organizations and individuals in the community was tremendously encouraging.

The children, organized by classes in the schools, reported to their respective schoolrooms at 6:30 in the evening. The American Legion provided marshals for each class, and their Commander led the parade as chief marshal. Each class was taken through the back streets to the Green Street school where the parade formed, and went through the main street to the Common where prizes, provided by the Parent-Teacher Association of the four grade schools in the town, were awarded to the three boys and girls having the funniest, prettiest, and the most authentic costumes. A banner provided by the Recreation Department is awarded annually to the school having the best representation and characterization. The parade was led by the Hinsdale High School band, which was sponsored by the Lions Club.

In the past it had been the policy to give the children refreshments after they had returned to their schools, but 8:30 seemed an early hour for boys and girls to go home and be good children on Halloween night! Consequently, five churches were encouraged to give parties for different grades or groups who participated in the parade, and only the smaller children were given refreshments at their schools. The refreshments were solicited and served by the American Legion Auxiliary.

Approximately 850 grade school children participated in the parade. A masquerade was held following the parade for the high school boys and girls, with an attendance of about 250. The orchestra, which came from out of town, was paid for by funds solicited by an interested citizen. The refreshments of cider and dough-



for Halloween!

nuts were donated by the Brattleboro Order of Elks. The Woman's Club provided the hostesses, and the Young Woman's Club served the refreshments. The prizes were solicited from five department stores in town. The organizations and people in the community seemed to go "all out" for a free show for the children on Halloween.

The Chief of Police stated that practically no vandalism had been reported on this Halloween night.

In Lucas County, Ohio. It started five years ago when the probation officer of the Lucas County, Ohio, Juvenile Court, alarmed by the increase in destructive Halloween pranks, called together representatives of a group of agencies and a Halloween Committee was organized to combat the trouble.

In past years the vandalism had started around the first of October, reaching a climax on Halloween with police and fire sirens screaming in all parts of the city in a frantic effort to catch up with the youthful mischief makers. Even though only a small proportion was apprehended, it was enough to be reflected in the Juvenile Court records for October 1937, and it set the Court to thinking.

There must be a way of meeting the situation, the new Halloween Committee believed, and its final solution was parties, more parties, still more parties; enough to avoid large concentrations; in every neighborhood, all over the city; every night for a week up to and including Halloween. Everybody was to be invited and there would be no charge, but plenty of good fun under capable leadership.

Churches, schools and agencies of all kinds cooperated—in what numbers it is impossible to say definitely as the records for 1938 were not

A gross reduction of eighty per cent in Halloween vandalism is the fine record of five years of civic cooperation in Toledo, Ohio. The story of this interesting experiment is told in annual reports of the Lucas County, Ohio, Juvenile Court, and in reports of community agencies.

completed. But the police records were not incomplete. They showed a decrease of five per cent in vandalism complaints, thirty per cent in false alarms, and nineteen per cent in broken lights as compared with the preceding year.

In 1939 the committee on arrangements was expanded. The schools conducted an educational campaign in the classrooms. There were 135 parties attended by nearly 50,000 people of all age groups. Result: police complaints down thirty per cent, false alarms down twenty per cent, broken lights down twenty-five per cent from the year before.

In 1940 the city council of Parent-Teacher Associations took over and sponsored the program, retaining the chief probation officer of Juvenile Court as chairman. The City Recreation Division of the Department of Public Welfare turned over all its shelter houses. An intensified campaign was carried out in every schoolroom. Forty-six churches, fifty-two schools and a hundred Boy Scout troops cooperated with the program. There were 315 parties with over 2,500 persons assisting. But the interest aroused stimulated many other groups to arrange their own small parties. Result: police complaints reduced fifteen per cent, false alarms thirty-eight per cent, broken lights sixty-one per cent from the preceding year. In three years general police calls for vandalism had fallen off nearly fifty per cent.

In 1941, under the same sponsorship and chairmanship, there were over 500 parties with more than 3,000 people serving on the various subcommittees. Police calls were down two per cent, false alarms thirty per cent, and broken lights thirty per cent from 1940.

A continuation of the Halloween program in 1942 resulted in further reduction in vandalism during this critical period. Again more than 500 separate celebrations were sponsored by the committee in charge, with a total attendance of more than 100,000 children, and with over 3,500 people serving on the various committees on arrangements. The figures show reduction in broken street lights, forty-five per cent; in false alarms, six per cent; in police calls, six per cent. October, the usual heavy month for delinquencies, took third place in 1942.

Thus, through unstinted and expanding cooperation by public agencies, notably the City Welfare Department, schools, Fire and Police Departments, and private agencies such as Parent-Teacher Associations, and churches, Halloween vandalism appears to have been brought under reasonable control. It has not been stopped. There will always be an irreducible minimum. Indications are that the campaigns will be continued so that that irreducible may be reached and maintained.

While the Juvenile Court is not by law or philosophy designed to prevent juvenile delinquency —the child comes to Court only after he is delinquent—Toledo's experience demonstrates what such a Court may accomplish by furnishing leadership to prevent delinquency and what a community can do through cooperation to provide wholesome substitutes for destructive mischief.

In Lagrange County, Indiana. According to the superintendent of the Lagrange Consolidated School, a "riproaring Halloween shebang" at the school solved the problem of vandalism in that locality. There's no admission price and the party is open to everyone, including adults. There are costumes, side shows, dancing; and the youngsters are encouraged to make as much noise as they possibly can.

The program at the school consists of stunts designed to wear the students out as well as provide them with good Halloween fun. The local merchants donate prize money for costume awards which are made after the annual parade.

For twenty-two years the program hasn't failed. Of course there are a few soaped windows here and there . . . but students themselves take charge of rectifying such damage, and the culprit cleans the window himself. (Students have a way of knowing who the pranksters are.)

Seventh and eighth graders and high school students run the side shows. High school juniors sell pumpkin pie, sweet cider, doughnuts and coffee. And there's dancing, too, 'til midnight . . . if anyone has any energy left after the parade, prizes and side shows.

To top it all there's a reward! If a checkup of the town the following day shows there was no destruction, the school gets a half-holiday. And it usually does!

Columbia's Far-Flung Recreation Program

If you've ever had the responsibility for transporting 15,000 dancing partners to training camps near your city and getting them safely back to their homes; if you've ever attempted to provide dances over a period of years for 136,000 officers and privates, then you will appreciate

some of the problems faced by our Recreation Department last year in sponsoring 273 dances for Fort Jackson and the Columbia Air Base.

Dances are only a part of our program. There's our athletic program, which was initiated when one of our recreation supervisors announced that she hoped to sponsor regular athletic engagements for teams from Fort Jackson, Columbia Army Air Base, college and career girls, servicemen's wives, and local

By W. H. HARTH

The Columbia, South Carolina, Recreation Department in 1943 provided recreation for over a million soldiers and civilians, including children. The story of this achievement is told by Mr. Harth, Director of the recreation program in that city.

The Elks' Fraternal Center offers unique facilities for social life out of doors

business firms. A few months later she was able to report that these plans were realities, thus setting another record for the Department.

Considered by leaders to be among the most valuable contributions made by the athletic program are the following:

1. Troops, which, because of their temporary status at the Fort and Air Base, cannot get into scheduled athletics at their posts, are given an opportunity for engagements; 2. Recreation which might not be possible at military posts is provided and expanded by the city; 3. Army men like to come to Columbia to participate in games because it offers a change of scene and an atmosphere like that which they would have back home.

Strong support has been



gained for the city's home hospitality program through which invitations are extended by Columbians and accepted by soldiers, for everything from dinner and dancing in town to luxurious week ends at wealthy Aiken winter estates. Planned exclusively for men in the service, the program entertained 17,015 of this group during 1943.

Centers Everywhere

Twenty-one centers were fully developed for year-round enjoyment of Columbians, both white and Negro, as well as the military personnel and their families stationed here.

The most typical example of Columbia's park centers is the 9½ acre Valley Park. Offered there for use of soldiers and civilians of the community are a recreation building, four well-equipped tennis courts, an excellently floodlighted softball field, movable sports equipment, a large dance patio donated last year by local organizations, and a boxing ring built recently by the city.

Three square dances a week, two military parties and a Sunday afternoon open house, with programs planned by soldiers and civilians, are scheduled regularly. The Valley Park Mothers Club helps directly with the preschool operated for youngsters too young to enroll in school. Community programs are planned by the Valley Park Patrons Club and the park's Teen Age Girls Club. The newly organized Teen Age Boys Club is engaged now in setting up its program for boys of high school age who have not yet been called for Army service. Afternoon parties are given by the teen age clubs, too.

Another outstanding park is Earlewood with its 27½ acres of beautiful woods teeming with wild-flowers. Any nature lover would forget himself on this secluded hillside, just as do the little children enjoying the playground equipment. It's a veritable recreation center with tennis, softball, baseball, volley ball, table tennis, Dutch ovens, picnic shelters and a building, with kitchen, where three square dances are held weekly for the benefit of the community and military personnel for near-by Fort Jackson and Columbia Army Air Base.

Also one night is given to young people who have the entire run of the building. These young boys and girls are organized into clubs and plan their own entertainment with the assistance of the park hostesses. Two nights are open for reservations. On Sunday, open house is enjoyed and refreshments are served.

From early morning until late at night this park

is active with its morning preschool, afternoon playground and nightly soldier entertainment. Here, too, the community participates in activities through various clubs.

Arsenal Hill, whose name is derived from being an arsenal during the Civil War, furnishes entertainment six nights a week to soldiers and civilians alike. Two square dances are held weekly. The Armyettes, an active girls' club, entertains soldiers every Monday night. The teachers of the city have organized into a club to plan parties for the men in service twice a month. Saturday is Navy Night when the Navy Mothers Club throws open the doors to V-12 and V-5 boys at the University of South Carolina.

The building has two floors and includes a kitchen. There is also an acre park with Dutch oven and picnic tables, outdoor dance floor, as well as playground equipment. This center, located on the crest of a hill, overlooks the city and its multi-colored lights attract the servicemen from afar.

Old Howard, a Negro center, offers an auditorium, kitchen, reading room, Dutch oven and playground equipment to servicemen and civilians. Dances, games, parties and dinners are enjoyed here and various Negro clubs assist with the entertainment.

Heathwood, Melrose, Irwin, Sims and Shandon Parks have excellent playground equipment and cabins which can be reserved for parties and clubs. Brownie and Scout Troops are well organized at these parks. St. Anne's Mission is a Negro playground.

Preschools are held daily except Saturday and Sunday in eight parks. Here three to six-year-old children spend four happy hours and release their mothers for defense work and home duties.

Then there's the unique Elks Fraternal Center which displays a long flight of steps flanked by a white picket fence with amusing signs, such as: "Hi! Service Men, Come on Down," "Beat It, MP's," "KP Phooey," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," and "MI 30 Calibre Blonde, Recoil Operated."

In the summer, soldiers with their girls can be seen dancing on the patio, seated at the varicolored tables surrounding the patio, sipping soft drinks and chatting. In the winter, this same scene changes to a large open fire, around which couples sit eating popcorn, apples and peanuts, dancing intermittently. This is truly a year-round recreation center.

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A People's Chorus and Community Orchestra

LAST FALL Wilkes-Barre organized its city-wide People's Chorus and Community Orchestra. Patterned after the organization of the same name in New York City, it has set a number of objectives for itself:

- To stimulate a desire for musical expression and to provide the opportunity for group as well as individual musical participation
- To promote and assist in community programs for educational as well as recreational purposes
- To assist in the development of an understanding and appreciation of the best music
- To help worthy and ambitious music students

There are no voice tests, and any person is welcome who has the desire to sing and can attend regularly. Six months after its organization, the group contained thirty-two singers and twenty-eight instrumentalists. It is growing steadily, and each week there are new members. Many of the musicians in the orchestra are veteran players, but they are there not because they are good players but because music is their hobby.

The rehearsals are held every Monday evening in one of the high school music rooms under the leadership of Prof. C. F. Nagro, a teacher in the Department of Music of the city schools.

Professor Nagro has been a member of the Wilkes-Barre Music Department since 1930 and prior to that was a member of the faculty of Albright

Are you one of the people who have always wanted to sing or play a musical instrument? And has it been your experience that you just couldn't find a group where you could lose your shyness and self-consciousness? Don't be discouraged! More cities are taking steps all the time to provide for "musically-shy" folks. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is one of these cities.

College. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Music from the American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, and is a Master of Science in Music Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

When the organization was being formed, naturally it was a small group, but regard-

less of its size, those who came always got a thrill from singing or playing because each member felt he was having a pleasurable experience. The orchestra plays for all rehearsals and this lends greatly to this experience.

What does the People's Chorus sing? This is a question often asked. The program is varied to meet the needs of the group; usually there are some folk songs, ballads, patriotic songs, opera selections, and popular numbers. At a recent Music Week Victory Sing the chorus gave a concertized version of part of the opera *Faust* by Gounod.

It may be of interest to others contemplating similar organizations to know that considerable material is available for vocal and instrumental ensembles. There are several concertized versions of the best-loved operas. In addition there are also the standard arrangements of well-known choruses all available with orchestral parts.

The People's Chorus and Orchestra is already accepted as a musical force in the community. It has taken the lead in several Victory Sings, has

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Recreation a Developing Profession

By ALLAN KRIM, Ed. M.

Recreation Department
Board of Education
Newark, New Jersey

PROFESSIONAL recognition to me appears to be indicated by the dignity and worth that the general public holds for a particular calling. Professional groups, like individuals, pass through definite periods of development. Medicine and law represent mature professions. Education, on the other hand, is relatively a new profession in the sense that its recognition by the general public and its meeting of standards which characterize a profession are of more recent date.

Now what of recreation—your particular calling and mine? What is its prestige? With what dignity and worth does the general public hold our profession? Or shall I ask if recreation is a profession? Although this question has been raised over and over again, there is still a lack of agreement as to the answer. Some unhesitatingly say "yes"; others answer "no"; while still others say "not yet, but it is becoming a profession."

This difference of opinion suggests three questions:

What are the characteristics of a profession?

To what extent does recreation possess the characteristics of a profession?

If recreation is not yet a profession, can it become a profession?

The following list of criteria distinguishes a profession from a trade or business:

1. A profession has a body of scientific knowledge and corresponding skill in practice.
2. The knowledge and skill can be acquired only by extended study and practice by persons who have the necessary native endowment.
3. The welfare of community, state, and nation depends upon services only by those who have this knowledge and skill.
4. The members, by virtue of special qualifications for public service, incur definite obligations to each other and to the public.

Now in order for us to determine to what extent recreation possesses the charac-

teristics of a profession, eight questions are raised for consideration:

1. Is there a body of specialized technical knowledge pertaining to recreation?
2. Are high standards required for entrance to recreation?
3. Do recreation personnel engage in recreation as a life work?
4. Do recreation personnel remain in the same community for a fairly long period?
5. Does the public hold recreation in high esteem?
6. Do recreation workers have a feeling of group consciousness?
7. Do recreation workers have professional standards for the regulation of their group?
8. Do recreation workers place service above personal gains?

Is there a body of scientific knowledge to recreation?

Although the data is far from complete, I believe that we can agree that a considerable amount of knowledge pertaining to recreation is now available. We have a definite accumulation of knowledge which gives a real philosophy of recreation. We have seen evidences of the development of content and subject matter in the introduction of recreation as a college and university course of study. We have also witnessed an increased output of literature pertaining to recreation. There have also been evidences of recreational research and study in communities, all of which indicates a body of specialized knowledge.

Are high standards required for entrance to recreation?

Not only does a profession have a body of scientific knowledge, but it must have corresponding skill in practice. The knowledge and skill can be acquired only by extended study and practice by persons who have the necessary native endowment. It must be admitted that stand-

Mr. Krim, in addition to his duties as a member of the staff of the Newark Recreation Department, serves as instructor in Recreation Administration at Panzer College, East Orange, New Jersey.

Both Mr. Krim and the National Recreation Association will welcome comments on the article. If you don't agree with any of the conclusions presented, don't hesitate to register your opinion!

ards for entrance to recreation have been low in emerging. It is only since 1938 that the booklet on *Standards of Training, Experience and Compensation in Community Recreation Work* * was published.

The war, with its lack of manpower, is causing us to forget about standards and we tend to make the mistake of the past in permitting individuals with no training to enter the field. The teaching profession has also lowered its standards somewhat, but at least its certification set-up will prevent a good many from remaining unless they meet certification requirements. The obstructive influence of politicians, the small salaries with no pension, and the limited appreciation of the importance of trained personnel on the part of those responsible for budgeting are a few reasons for low standards.

Do recreation personnel engage in recreation as a life work?

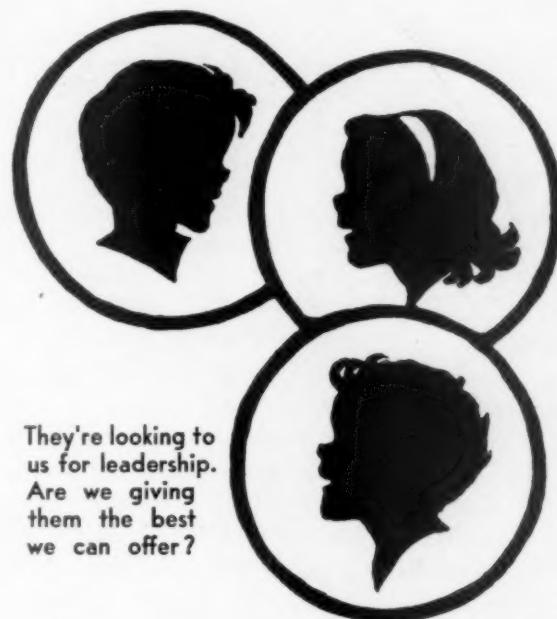
Unfortunately, recreation is not considered as a life career by thousands of men and women who enter its ranks. The annual turnover, due to the fact that compensation is not commensurate with the training of these workers, and the fact that they can go into other fields of work, make recreation a stepping stone for better paid positions. The fact that so many of our community programs operate in certain seasons of the year handicaps us from getting people to engage in recreation as a life work.

Do recreation personnel remain in the same community for a fairly long period?

Recreation personnel remains comparatively a short time in a given community. This again is caused by the fact that as new and better paid positions open up, the trained recreation worker moves up. Only in the big cities, for the most part, do we see personnel remaining for any length of time.

Does the public hold recreation in high esteem?

Professions are recognized by the public as rendering a necessary social service and are held in high esteem. Public recognition, however, manifests itself in various ways. The public is somewhat confused as to what constitutes a recreation leader. This is due to the fact that so many have come into recreation with training in fields only partially, if at all, related to the broad field of rec-



Gedge Harmon

reation. Our seasonal programs still attract the transient play leader, the high school or college athlete who is looking for a summer's outing, or the school teacher who, because of financial stringencies, accepts an additional job.

Do recreation workers have a feeling of group consciousness?

This is manifesting itself slowly through recreation workers' organizations. The National Recreation Association, Society of Recreation Workers of America, the state associations, and the local associations all indicate a trend to group consciousness. However, even here we fall short, since comparatively few actually belong.

Do recreation workers have professional standards for regulating a group?

One of the characteristics of a profession is an attempt, on the part of the members, to establish standards to govern the relation of their group to the general public and to members of the profession. It was in 1938 or 1939 that the Society for Recreation Workers set up a credo for the recreation profession which dealt chiefly with the recreation worker in his relation to the general public.

Do recreation workers place service above personal gain?

Those of us who remain and who pursue recreation as a life work definitely place service above personal gain. Almost all of us are in this field

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* National Recreation Association. 25 cents.

Square Dancing During Intermissions

"WHAT CAN we do to entertain a larger number of the servicemen who come to the club for the dance?"

This was the question we asked ourselves after the first of our USO dances, when we discovered that only about a half of the soldiers and sailors present had taken part in social dancing. Some, to be sure, had played table tennis, stood around the piano, or visited with the hostesses, but a very large number had merely stood in the corners of the room watching the others.

Our second dance was to have music provided by a good military band. In talking to the leader of the band a day or so before the dance, we learned that at ten o'clock there would be a half hour intermission. That gave us our inspiration!

When ten o'clock arrived on the night of the dance, and the orchestra had left the hall, without any announcement the excellent piano player we had secured for the occasion started playing "Red River Valley" in square dance tempo. It worked out just as we had hoped it would when we planned it! Almost every man who had been sitting on the side lines or standing in the corner rushed on the floor and began doing his own version of the dance. Then the leader stopped the music for a brief pause and gave the following instructions:

1. Circles of four couples

See that the lady is at the gent's right
Circle to the left
Circle to the right
Forward and back to the center
Forward and back once again
(We will do that much to the music)

2. One circle (everybody—one circle)

Lady at gent's right
Drop hands
Spread out
All stand on right foot (left foot free)
Dip up and down on right foot
Dip on right foot and tap with left foot
Now dip on right foot and swing left foot
Now dip on right foot and turn yourself with the left
(Now we will do that much to the music)

3. All the ladies on one side of the room

Gents on the other side of the room
(Music)
Grand march
Forward two
First two to the right

By G. V. McCausland
St. Joseph, Michigan

Second two to the left
Forward four
First four to the right
Second four to the left

Forward eight
(When first eight come to the end of the room)
Circle eight

4. We will practice the swing by ourselves again
Now, gents, take your partner's right hand in your left hand, and put your right hand on her left hip, and the girl puts her left hand on the gent's shoulder
You both stand on your right foot
You place the outside of your right foot side by side and you use your right foot as a pivot as you paddle around to the left with your left foot
As you swing you lean away from your partner
(We will practice the swing with our partners)
(Music)

5. Now you all join hands and you circle
Circle left—then you circle to the right
Now you forward and back to the center
And you forward and back once again
Now you all swing your gals in the valley
Swing them 'round and around and around
(Stop music)
"Fine"

6. Now, gents, take your gal's right hand—lift it over her head and rest it on her right shoulder
Take her left hand in your left hand
And everyone walk around the circle once and stop at the place you started from
(Music)
All swing your partners
And promenade once around
(Stop music)

"The first couple is the couple with their backs to the music—the next couple to the right is the second couple—the next couple to the right is the third couple—the next couple to the right is the fourth couple."

7. After the introduction—the first couple leads down the valley (to the couple on the right) and swings the opposite lady and then his own partner
The first couple then leads on down the valley and does the same with the third and fourth couples
Then everybody swings in the valley
And promenade once around
(Music—and the complete dance)

8. Oh, you all join hands and you circle
Circle left—then you circle to the right
Now you forward and back to the center
And you forward and back once again
Now you all swing your gals in the valley
Swing 'em 'round and around and around

And now you take your partner
And you promenade one time around

Now the first couple leads down the valley
Circle left—then you circle to the right
(Four hands 'round with the second couple)
Now you swing the opposite lady
But don't forget your Red River gal (swing your own
partner)

Now you lead right on and you circle
Circle left—then you circle to the right
Now you swing the opposite lady
But don't forget your Red River gal
(And so on until all have taken their turn)

The "Red River Valley" is a good dance to begin with, but any dance may be used. We didn't try to teach the left allemande or the grand right and left when we were working with a new group. Because the servicemen are not usually in one town long enough to attend the same club many times, we have done most of our square dancing without the left allemande and the grand right and left.

It has been our experience that it is much better to introduce the square dance at the intermission period by playing a square dance tune than by trying to get the dancers on the floor first and then playing the tune. Our plan at all intermissions is to have a square dance tune played without any announcement and then, when the group is on the floor, to give a few simple instructions. The "Red River Valley," as outlined, can be taught in fifteen minutes. This allows fifteen minutes either to do the dance again for practice, or to do some part of the dance which the players may not thoroughly understand.

Never try to put over square dancing on a group which has come to do social or ballroom dancing! This usually makes the guests feel they have been cheated out of some time which they have counted on for ballroom dancing. Men on leave have only a short time for recreation, and if they decide to spend the evening at a regular dance they do not want to use that time for complicated mixers or square dances. The introduction of square dancing at intermissions, however, cannot be objected to because nothing else is going on. The orchestra is out of the room, and the floor is clear. Those who have been dancing to the orchestra music may wish to rest or

The July issue of RECREATION carried an article by Laurence B. Cairns telling of the popularity of country dancing at USO clubs. In this issue Mr. McCausland, Executive Secretary, St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Michigan, Community Chest, gives us a leaf from his experience in conducting square dancing at many clubs.

Mr. McCausland is a social worker by profession, but his hobby is square dancing, and he has given courses in square dance calling at Ohio State University.

visit, but those who don't know how to do ballroom dancing may now have their turn. When it becomes known that square dances will be taught during intermissions, many men will take part in the evening fun who formerly spent their time standing on the side lines.

In some of the OCD training courses for hostesses, square dancing is being taught as a part of the regular course. Many girls have enjoyed these lessons even with no men present. One evening a group of forty-five nurses had a square dance, and since there were no men present the girls took turns in wearing strips of crepe paper to show they were taking the part of men in the dance. There is great advantage in the girls knowing square dancing and starting it, for then the men will join them. This is true, of course, of activities other than square dancing!

It is possible to use intermissions at a dance for adaptations of square dances, and it may be better in some cases not to give the figures any names at all. Many square dances introduced at intermissions make good mixers, among them the "Grape Vine Twist" and "Alabama Jubilee."

As soon as the orchestra leaves the room for intermission, have a square dance tune played on the piano. (Accordion or fiddle and piano are also good.)

Then the leader will say:

Circle all—or one large circle
Lady at gent's right

Break that circle with the lady
in the lead single file—Indian style

Turn and swing her once in a
while

(Gent turns and swings the
lady behind him)

(Continued on page 330)

TO PUT IT BRIEFLY

1. Try introducing a square dance at intermission time.
2. Let the music announce what is going to take place.
3. Don't try to force anyone to take part.
4. Teach only very little the first time.
5. See that all have a good time even if they do not do the dance exactly right.
6. And remember the old standard principle: "Stop while they're asking for more."

Sport Makes Good Flying Men

By Group Captain C. D. TOMALIN

ATHLETES who have devoted themselves to swimming are lucky today. I realize that from my own wartime experience.

In many sports—notably boxing and wrestling—the accent is on the individual. The individual is trained to think of his own condition, his own skill, his own reactions and only incidentally of his opponent, so that he will properly appreciate the standard of preparation necessary for himself. But in most of the amateur clubs, and particularly in Britain's amateur swimming clubs such as mine, the membership includes every type of man and woman. Some of my fellow members perform the humblest tasks for a living. Others are prominent in the professions. These differences disappear when we are in our swimming pool stripped for action, for the success of the club, as a club, depends utterly on the team spirit of coopera-

Captain Tomalin, who is champion English swimmer, has made a fine fighting record in this war and holds the Air Force Cross

tion. The only criterion is then: How will it help the club? Not how will it help me?

I have known many instances of members, who were on the very top in the athletic sense, take time off their own training to give advice and training to younger members who showed promise. And I have known them to persist enthusiastically in this training right up to and beyond the day when the pupil defeated his teacher.

It is precisely the same in the Royal Air Force. Time after time I have seen a first class pilot who has completed a long tour of operational duty take up instructional work with as much enthusiasm as he had given formerly to his own operations. Why? Because he had found a pupil with the keenness and the promise that matched that which he himself had possessed. Into the training of that pupil the veteran pilot will put all his knowledge

Skating, as well as swimming, is a sport which makes a contribution to the efficiency of fighting men



Courtesy New York City Park Department

and spirit, with the result that the day comes when the pupil is a better fighting man than his teacher and actually takes his place in operations. This is the spirit of cooperation of the amateur sports club translated into fighting terms.

There is also the element of physical fitness. As a diver I have always had to keep in excellent condition, and now that I

am on flying operations my past training stands me in good stead. This business of keeping in good physical shape is so automatic that I find it no great strain to come straight from an operational trip and go directly to the nearest swimming pool and give exhibitions of diving. In fact, the one physical strain offsets the other.

There must be something in these theories, since for two months running my squadron were top scorers in RAF Fighter Command for shooting down German aircraft over their own bases. And that, of course, is the main preoccupation nowadays. My own sporting background has, I know, made a valuable contribution to my own part.

Another article dealing with the importance of athletics and sports in developing physical fitness in fighting men appeared in the February 1944 issue of *Think* magazine under the title, "Sports and Combat Training." The article, reprinted by permission, follows:

"In every branch of the armed forces athletics has become an indispensable part of training for combat duty. In no branch of the service is this more evident than in the Pre-Flight Division of the Navy. Athletics here is on a par with physics and mathematics. Every cadet is required to participate in every sport, whether it be what is generally regarded as a major sport, such as football, baseball or track, or one or another of the games of the school boy variety, such as Follow the Leader.

"Manuals have been prepared so that cadets may know what they are in for. The latest is called *Mass Exercise*, which is a far cry from the tedium associated with squads rhythmically going through calisthenics. In every case great emphasis is placed on the competitive spirit, and all the events wind up with a championship series.

"There is much to be said for sports. When you go to bat against the opposing pitcher, and you take a deep lusty swing at the ball, and you hear the crack of the bat meeting the ball, and you see the ball sailing far over the center field fence, this is a moment of tangible pleasure. . . . When your ball is twenty feet from the cup, and the green is rough, so that the ball must take three deliberate hops before it reaches the cup, what is your state of beatitude as you watch the ball drop into the cup! These are pleasures to be derived only from sports. There is a great deal to be said for sports."—From circular issued by *The Readers Club*, New York City.

"Six-ball soccer, in which there may be as many as one hundred players on a side, is an excellent example of the evident intention to instil fun and rough-and-tumble rivalry into a game which, in a way, simulates conditions of actual warfare.

"The game creates plenty of excitement. Six balls are put simultaneously into play, with six referees on

hand to call the three varieties of fouls, among them 'rough or slugging play,' which are recognized. One can readily imagine the stout courage generated when two hundred healthy young 'animals' are in 'full cry.' As soon as one ball is knocked for a goal, the score is recorded and that ball is then taken out of play for the remainder of the game. Finally there is but one ball left, and still there are two hundred men in pursuit of it. When it is at length put through for a goal, the triumph to these lusty young men getting ready for war may call up pictures of them successfully storming a beach.

"Then there are relay races in which the number of participants may be unlimited. And when the first man on a relay team has run his race, he goes to the end of the line of his team prepared to start all over again when his next turn comes. This race, in so far as the rules are concerned, may keep on from 'dawn till dewy eve.' In much the same category is tug of war, with unlimited numbers on both sides. Mass volley ball may have as many as seventy-two on each side. Speedball Junior stipulates that the contestants shall kick a soccer ball with their feet while lying on their backs, and shall move along the ground in crab fashion.

"Still other contests are three-legged relays, wheelbarrow relays, horse and ride relays, and good old Prisoners' Base adapted to the principle of warfare, which is that prisoners shall at all times be guarded.

"But all is not mass exercise. There are partner competitions such as Indian wrestling, hand wrestling, and elbow tug of war. Various self-testing devices also give every young man 'glorying in his strength' the opportunity to ascertain just how good he actually is.

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A Workshop for Boys

THE WORKSHOP is one of the most popular of the many activities offered at Waterloo's new Washington Community Recreation Center which, until Thanksgiving of last year, was an old boarded-up school building.

On numerous afternoons when the shop is a beehive of thirty-five boys and two or three girls all in the process of creating something, with at least eleven boys crowded four and five deep around the sander, there might be some leaders who would wonder about professional techniques! If, however, these people could pay a personal visit to the Waterloo workshop; if they could see for themselves the electric project and demonstration board worked out by the maintenance man of the Recreation Department turned workshop instructor; if they would take a good look at some of the better things produced; and, above all, if they could see the boys and girls themselves, they would be inclined to agree with what Angelo Patri said back in 1933.

Said Mr. Patri: "When the machines carried the work of home into the shops and laboratories, home was emptied of its vitality. It is always so. When an institution loses the stimulus of creative work, it loses meaning. Unless creative work becomes part and parcel of the life of the school, it cannot hope to prepare children for the era of machine-made service. So I say the next generation must be trained upon a new principle, one founded on the creative impulse of humanity.

"... Most of us are ordinary people. No marked gifts distinguish us from the great group of people with whom we work and play. But there is always something that we can enjoy more than anything else, something that brings the light of joy and interest in our eyes, quickens our movements, illuminates our spirit. Well, it is for the ordinary person that I crave a training for leisure, for culture, for creative expression. The genius has the power to lift himself above the routine of daily living. We don't have to worry about his leisure time. Nature takes care of that. But the ordinary person must be trained so that he develops a hobby, an avocation, something he can turn to in his leisure time."

Angelo Patri would be interested in Waterloo's workshop.

On Monday, Wednesday,

"A workshop has its greatest value at a time like the present, and it would be a contribution to morale and mental balance if every Army and Navy post, as well as every school and college, provided tools and materials to gratify the desire to work with one's hands." — From the Director, Student Workshop, Dartmouth College.

Does your Recreation Department provide boys of all ages in your community from 8 to 80—but particularly from 8 to 12—the fun of a workshop?

If location, equipment, or leadership is holding you back, the story of the workshop in Waterloo, Iowa, may offer inspiration and practical help.

and Friday afternoons the workshop is open to fifth and sixth grade boys, and two or three girls who refuse to be "frozen" out. There is always a variety of activity. The machine in the corner which is always as completely surrounded as Popeye on a personal appearance tour, is the sander. It is the one piece of power equipment which the boys are allowed to use. It is never idle for a moment.

"George, will you bore this for me?" a young worker sings out from a corner of the room.

The instructor looks up from the band saw where he is working on a pile of embryo tommy guns. He is a member of the National Guard and in midwinter arranged for a special inspection of G.I. Army equipment at the Armory. Forty boys from the recreation center marched there in a body one Saturday morning. The high spot of the visit was taking a paper pattern of the latest G.I. tommy gun.

Much of the equipment of the workshop was hunted out and tracked down by the maintenance man instructor and his staff. A virtually brand-new band saw was located at a commercial photographer's. A \$45 shaper was secured for a mere \$15. All of the benches for the workshop were built by the maintenance department.

The shop equipment includes: 1 power sander, 1 twelve-inch band saw, 1 ten-inch circle saw, 1 six-inch joiner, 1 shaper. There are 6 band saws, 1 lathe, 10 wood-vises, 20 coping saws, and 4 benches. Soon to be added are a drill press, jig saw and vise, a

new lathe, and portable electric drill. The cost of the equipment to date is \$1,600.

One of the most unique pieces at the workshop is the electric demonstration board mentioned previously. It is hung at one end of the shop, as a blackboard would be. On it are worked out thirty-six different examples of simple electrical wiring. The board furnishes the basis for a course of six individual projects for seventh and eighth grade boys. The board and individual projects are all the invention of the recreation leader, and the boys are very proud of their equipment.

The shop holds interest for all age groups. Besides the three days of woodworking for the fifth and sixth grade boys, and the two days of electric projects for the seventh and eighth graders, older boys and girls use the shop two evenings a week. Fifth and sixth graders add up to 110. The average daily attendance has had to be limited to twenty and thirty. Even with this restriction, the boys concoct ingenious methods for getting in extra hours. To date, all working material (wood of all kinds) has been furnished without any charge.

The shop is in a neighborhood of both white and colored families and there are always three or four colored boys in the shop. When a visitor asked the recreation leader which of the woodworking boys was inclined to turn in the best work, a twelve-year-old redhead answered for the director. Swinging his arm around the shoulders of a shyly smiling colored lad, the white boy said, "Lee, here, can sure make swell things, can't he, George?" Later the visitor discovered from the recreation leader who has the pottery group that it is Lee's work which is also outstanding in that department.

The workshop is remarkable for its lack of conversation. The woodworkers are too

interested to talk much. Boys will be boys, however, and occasionally one of the crowd loudly threatens everyone in his corner of the room if the saw he is using disappears while he procures some needed tool from the other side of the room.

Anything but a down-to-earth approach gets a cold shoulder. When one curly-head working on a rabbit toy was asked if he ever made anything for his little brother, another aggressive looking curly-headed lad from the opposite work bench boomed, "I'm his little brother."

As Angelo Patri pointed out in speaking of leisure: "How can we profit by the experience of this day of trouble and emerge from a civilization of servitude into one that sheds new light on the meaning of life? Children must be taught to use their leisure time aright. No human being can remain idle for any length of time without protest. The spirit of man must have food. That food is found in something one likes to do. In idleness lies danger."

NOTE: Other of the interesting activities of the recreation program in Waterloo were described in the July 1944 issue of RECREATION under the title, "Shortages No Waterloo for Waterloo!"

Everything from tommy guns to toys for their younger brothers and sisters is made by Waterloo boys in the workshop





OPPORTUNITIES YOUR SOCIAL

STUDY, PLAY, CREATE—make your leisure time show a profit. Fill it with activities that will bring you happiness, health, knowledge."

This is the invitation that the Milwaukee Department of Municipal Recreation broadcasts to Milwaukee citizens young and old, offering them a varied and rich program of activities. From its very beginning the Department followed the policy

that recreation is not merely something which concerns children's play but is a matter of vital importance in the life of every person from childhood through old age. Nor does recreation consist solely of sports, games, and physical activities. While these are vital to an individual, and provision for them is a large part of the responsibility of a recreation department, there are many other valuable

IES OFFERED BY IAL CENTERS



Courtesy Annual Convention Publication 1943, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor

interests which should function in the leisure hours of an individual and of a community.

The original law under which Milwaukee's Recreation Department was created limited the special tax through which funds were secured to .2 mill. In 1918 and again in 1937, the ever-growing interest and need prompted citizens, through referendum, to appeal for increases in the recreation tax

limitation, which was raised from .2 to .4 mill, and from .4 to .8 mill. Ever alive to the value of playgrounds and social centers to their families and to the community, the labor organizations fought valiantly for each referendum and exerted a potent influence on the elections.

At present the Department operates sixty-nine

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How Recreation Came to Norway, Maine

WHILE Margaret Williston was a student in Boston University she did her practice work in the office of Boston Community Service. There on the library table she picked up RECREATION Magazine and bulletins sent by the National Recreation Association. These periodicals became "Number One" on her reading parade each month. Upon her graduation from Boston University, Margaret Williston was asked by her family what her choice of a graduation present was. She asked for and received a membership in the National Recreation Association, which was to bring her wherever she was a copy of RECREATION and the NRA bulletins. Margaret Williston made recreation a part of her own life and decided that no matter where she was assigned, others, too, would have recreation. Margaret Williston was offered and accepted a job in the Child Welfare Department in the state of Maine and her assignment was Norway, a community of about 3,600 people.

Now she had the town where recreation was needed, but she did not have all the information required to bring recreation to Norway immediately! The state of Maine appointed her as a delegate to the National Social Work Conference held in New Orleans in 1942. The National Recreation Association had consultation service at that conference. Margaret Williston came daily to the National Recreation Association desk to look over the literature and ask questions. She went back to Norway, Maine, and got started! Each time a particular problem presented itself, Margaret Williston wrote to the National Recreation Association for counsel.

In 1943 Norway, Maine, had a Recreation Council and a volunteer leader, Margaret Williston, who in her own words says, "I will settle for nothing less than year-round recreation." She has the full support of the community. There were many important in-between

The story of a girl, the graduation present she requested, a town, and the National Recreation Association

steps too numerous to mention, but a few are listed because they show that it can be done.

In getting community

interest, Margaret Williston learned that the Department of Welfare was paying \$1,100 rent for the building in which she had her office. This building was formerly the opera house and only two rooms were being used. She inquired of the Girl Scout leader and the various community organizations where their meetings were held and when she discovered that they were having difficulty in finding suitable meeting places, she told them about the empty rooms in the opera house and encouraged them to ask for permission to use these rooms. In a short time not only were the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts meeting in the building, but the community orchestra and glee clubs were holding their rehearsals there. This is really the start of the Recreation Center.

In looking around for volunteer leadership she discovered by talking to people in the town that the minister in one of the churches had had training in the National Recreation Association Rural Institute, and that he in turn could be helpful in training other leaders.

One of the things that helped Margaret Williston most was the fact that she could point to a tavern on the main street in Norway which was the only place in town that offered anything of interest to the young people—the lights were bright; the juke box gave forth; there was a place to dance and boy could meet girl, not always under the most favorable conditions.

Now Margaret Williston's ambition is to tell the whole state of Maine about the National Recreation Association and about the need for recreation in the villages. She came to headquarters' office to ask permission to set up an exhibit at the forthcoming Social Work Conference for the state of Maine, which will show the

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It was far from an expensive graduation present she asked for—nothing more than a membership in the National Recreation Association; but with the year's subscription to RECREATION and the bulletins which the membership brought her, plus, of course, her own resourcefulness and will to serve, a town in Maine is enjoying recreation, and the entire State bids fair to receive dividends from that \$5.00 investment!

Have you ever thought what you might be able to accomplish by a similar investment in the National Recreation Association?

In Defense of Hobbies—

Especially Stamp Collecting

WHENEVER I go to a museum or exhibition of any kind, I always come away with a feeling of relief that I collect stamps instead of china or stones. Imagine the difficulty of carrying home a package of a thousand plates of Dresden china or of finding a place for them when you get them there! Yet it is not unusual for me to carry home in my coat pocket an envelope containing a thousand stamps. One of the reasons for the popularity of stamp collecting may be the very ease with which stamps may be carried about and the small space a large collection occupies. It does not clutter up the house, and it is easier to "sneak in" your collection than it would be if you collected bulky articles. That is a point to consider when you have spent more money than you should on some particularly choice collector's item!

Collecting is one of the fundamental urges of man, even though some members of your family may regard it as a childish diversion or an indication that you are not quite bright—"a grown-up man spending his evenings with tiny scraps of paper!" The argument that great statesmen and business leaders turn to collecting antiques, books, china, coins, or stamps as a means of relaxation falls on deaf ears.

Perhaps the answer may be found in something a niece of mine said when she came into my study to find me working on my stamp collection: "I have no one to play with, but if you are playing with your toys I'll bring mine along and we'll play together."

That four year old came very close to the truth. The purpose of a hobby is to give us pleasure and relaxation. Take vacations, for instance. The conventional and obvious thing to do on a vacation is to send post cards to friends and relatives at home. Sometimes it is best not to do the obvious and conventional. There are many people who collect post cards, but they are the ones with friends who visit strange places.

A vacation is really the time to do your collecting or treasure hunting, as a friend calls it. Some people have the idea that the purpose of a vacation is to go places and do things which they really don't want to do but which are expected of them. These timid souls among collectors find it easier to follow the crowd to a resort than to explain to



Gedge Harmon

By H. SANGUINETTI

friends that they get more fun out of staying home, poking through second-hand stores or visiting interesting old places in search of whatever useless articles they like to collect! Now that it is patriotic to stay at home, we collectors don't have so much alibiing to do!

There are signs, however, of a more tolerant attitude, and the day may yet come when we collectors won't have to sneak our latest finds into the house to avoid the third degree as to what we've been doing and how much money we spent on "stuff that only clutters up the house." In fact, stamp collecting seems to have passed from the undercover stage to respectability. Perhaps the ease with which governments have found they can extract revenue by issuing new postage stamps honoring famous men or causes has something to do with it. An organized minority of ten million people—the number of stamp collectors the post office estimates for this country—can't be laughed off as being "nuts"! Furthermore, the Post Office Department encourages stamp collecting since it brings in over \$1,000,000 a year from the sale of stamps which will never do postage duty since they'll all be tucked away in stamp collections.

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Not Too Old to Enjoy Life

By JEANNE H. BARNES

THE PROBLEMS of the aged or "older people," as most of us prefer to call them, are not only the concern of those working in institutions or serving with the Department of Public Assistance. Leaders in recreation and education, as well as other fields of social endeavor, must be concerned more and more. Certainly when we realize that while the Philadelphia population increased only one per cent in the last decade the number of persons above sixty-five increased thirty-eight per cent, and that seven per cent of the Philadelphia population is over sixty-five years of age (it is estimated that by 1980 it will be eleven per cent), we know that the number is too large to be disregarded.

Quite naturally agencies have first looked after physical needs but have been led to believe that the emotional life of the individual is as important as physical comfort and security, and that the "universal wishes" for security, recognition, response, and new experience are present at any age.

Increasingly there is an interest in old people as *individuals*, and a realization that as long as there is life a person is a complete individual, retaining all his feelings and faculties to a varying degree.

One writer has said that the following things combine to make old people happy: (1) Living arrangements; (2) good health; (3) occupation; (4) social life; (5) acquaintance with young people. These five factors seem to be paramount regardless of whether the old person is married, widowed, sees his children or not.

Now let's review some general principles which should be considered in regard to old people:

Older people must be allowed to proceed at their own pace and with their own program, not a program imposed on them. They look backward instead of ahead, and it is questionable just how much we can change that. We can make them interested in the present and, perhaps, the *immediate* future.

We should not be surprised if their first reaction is "No" when a new and different thing is proposed.

Miss Barnes, a field worker for the Council of Social Agencies of Philadelphia, presented this address at a meeting of the Council held last February. She was formerly a member of the staff of the National Recreation Association and worked on problems of recreation in institutions.

This is the easiest reaction because it involves the least effort. It may take some time for our suggestion to be accepted (let alone followed), and an older person may add his own changes, but that in itself denotes interest and mental activity. While changes are good for variety's sake, sudden ones, and "surprises," can sometimes be upsetting to certain old people.

Some have said the older a person gets, the younger his interests are. Not that he wants to be treated as a child, but the simpler and less complicated things appeal.

We may expect old people to want to be alone some of the time. This is natural because they enjoy reviewing past years. However, the older person needs and wants social contacts as much as in any other period of life, but finds them more difficult to achieve and maintain because friends have passed on and family and young people pass by. Unhappiness, withdrawal, neurotic symptoms with actual physical distress, day dreaming, which develops into suspicion, evasion of reality, and diminishing mental capacity can often be traced to isolation or solitary confinement. Generally speaking, the older women do not want to be separated from younger ones, while this is not so vital a point with the men.

We find that men are more adept at playing games and finding things to fill their leisure (smoking, checkers, horseshoes, watching excavations, sitting around the store or square, politics). Women have spent their young years being housewives and mothers, with their major handwork sewing. If they can no longer see and have no opportunity to cook, they are at quite a loss. No doubt the universal interest in hobbies and greater scope of professional activities for women will change this picture in another generation.

Activities should never be abruptly stopped but should be changed to altered capacities of aging people. As long as the individual is alive he needs, in addition to food and love, the opportunity to function and be effective. To be "needed" is what is important!

Recreation in Institutions

In the suggestions which follow, we have purposely by-passed the movies, entertainments, visiting groups, and other program features which are common to most institutions, and have thought in terms of the unusual thing or the very simple activity that should brighten long hours.

Surroundings. "Hominess," as well as comfort, must be present in the surroundings. There should be plenty of shade and plenty of places to sit down comfortably. Rocking chairs, pianos, even canaries, and special touches which were a part of the furnishings in a former generation (such as gay plates on a wall molding) all add up to this hominess. Pictures of "kin folk" in individual rooms also help.

There should also be color created by flowering plants, books, colorful draperies, and rugs. Certainly holiday decorations should be brought in at the appropriate times. While old people do not always relish drastic changes in the placement of furnishings, holiday decorations do add variety and offer a certain gaiety and stimulation to a place where the "scenery" does not change.

Facilities. Facilities should include: A community garden or individual gardens, flower or vegetable (herb gardens are the latest "fad"); perhaps, a terrarium or dish garden for those who cannot get outside.

A "tinker shop" for men, and a small kitchen for women to use on occasion.

Supplies. Supplies have some "musts," too, such as: Radio, piano, or even a player piano for those who cannot play but like to pump the rolls. Victrolas have come into their own again. "Talking books," which can be borrowed from libraries, can be used if a victrola is available.

A gaily painted book cart on which are books, maga-

zines, and perhaps, supplies for quiet games for those who do not leave their own rooms and who would much rather make their own selections than have a friend do it.

Home town papers and pictorial magazines, if possible.

In addition to the usual checkers and chess, dominoes, lotto, parchesi, monopoly, cribbage, peggy, rook, anagrams, pick-up sticks, and lexicon. (Bringing these to the attention of the old folks might revive interest in games that they have almost forgotten and, therefore, have not thought to request.)

The Program. Program hints gleaned from everywhere include:

Celebrations for holidays.

Individual birthday remembrances of some sort, if only a personal greeting card at the breakfast plate (one Home has this and includes a brand-new dollar bill).

Some small surprises, such as tea and cookies in the middle of the afternoon, or a special musical program or an unexpected visitor.

A community project that not only offers something to do but can also inspire community spirit, such as making a quilt for the Red Cross; painting toys or making doll clothes for needy children; helping children's groups make their costumes;

Checker enthusiasts at the Men's Recreation Club, The Lighthouse, Philadelphia



compiling scrap-books for other institutions. Agencies like the British War Relief offer many suggestions, many of which do not require good eyesight or sewing ability.

A half hour of music after supper. This might include singing, if it develops spontaneously. (Having song books easily available aids in this.)

Particularly those entertainments in which children perform; also those in which the old people themselves can take part, such as group singing and reciting scripture.

A "progressive party" to introduce the card and table games mentioned above.

A close association and service with children's groups, such as the Girl Scouts. (One group planned to read aloud to the old ladies in exchange for help with making costumes. Then the children gave their "dress rehearsal" at the Home before performing at their downtown rally.)

Auto rides, particularly when the fall foliage is at its height and when the spring flowers are in bloom, or at Christmas when the outdoor decorations in the business and residential sections are so delightful.

Book reviews (which may be simply storytelling but never called such).

Exhibits borrowed from downtown stores, public libraries, museums, or clubs for the institution's residents to enjoy (historical relics, antiques, dolls from various countries).

An occasional buffet supper or tea to change the routine. (A "hike" to a near-by place with a picnic supper is a welcome change at one institution.)

Craft classes and exhibits of work done.

Permission to invite visitors for tea or supper, at least once a month.

A suggestion box in which residents can place their suggestions for recreation ideas.

A committee on recreation made up of board members and residents.

Recreation "at Home"

Now for those people who live alone, or even with families, but still feel so "alone"—what can we plan for them?

Surroundings. We must be just as considerate of their surroundings when it comes to growing things, pictures of kin folk, color, comfort, and convenience.

Let me grow lovely, growing old, as many fine things do;
Laces and ivory and gold and silks need not be new.
And there is healing in old trees; old streets a glamour hold.
Why may not I, as well as these, grow lovely, growing old?

—Karle Wilson Baker

magazines, and similar sources.

Radio and victrolas bring much comfort. In fact, listening to the radio and recordings; participating in radio and magazine contests; sending for "Mother Barber's Scrap-book with one box top of Tenderleaf Tea," and reading home town newspapers can be important parts of the solitary person's leisure.

Program Suggestions. These may include: Simple "out-of-the-house" excursions, particularly trolley car rides.

Trips to the museum, public library, historical societies, fashion shows, concerts, and cooking demonstrations, which never lose their fascination, regardless of age.

The special advantages of public institutions, that is, the music room at the Public Library where one can borrow sheet music and play it on the pianos which are available, or do the same with victrola records and players.

Hobbies which include not only crafts and radio contests but collections, many of which can be carried on by mail; tracing genealogy; weather; photography; and, of course, correspondence with those in service.

By all means, community service, even if they are shut-ins; making scrap-books; preparing greeting cards; repairing toys; mounting pictures; war relief activities, which may include cutting patterns and assembling buttons, as well as sewing.

Membership in clubs, particularly those for older people.

Participation in book exchanges, city-wide checker tournaments, district horseshoe matches, and similar events.

Special Projects

Here are some special projects which have been attempted throughout the country by institutions for the aged, the Department of Public Assistance, and certain neighborhood centers:

Hobby shows, or better yet, "treasure shows,"

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"Trial by Youth"

By DAVID WEISS

Jewish Young Men's and Women's Association
Rochester, New York

A community focuses interest on its juvenile delinquency problem through the "Mock Trial" method

LAST DECEMBER our community suddenly became excited by the sensational pronouncement in the press by a well-known attorney that a curfew was the only solution to the problem of youth. Letters for and against curfew flowed in profusion to the editors of our local papers. Allusions to youth were made in scareheads. Overnight it seemed as though youth had become a local and national menace!

Residents of the community were galvanized. Staff discussion in our agency considered the problem in two ways. On one hand, misgivings were expressed as to whether anything special should be done at this time other than strengthening the regular recreation and social program. There was concern lest any special action would only provoke further confusion or be misrepresented as a sign of anxiety to cover delinquent members. The other point of view was that the agency would have to risk such a misinterpretation. To do nothing would essentially be a denial of its fundamental obligation to youth, as well as its own membership and the community.

As a result, the agency decided to follow through the suggestion that a "mock trial" be held. Combined thinking resulted in the title of "Trial by Youth" which deliberately guarded against an interpretation of the prepositions "of" or "for." In order to afford a comprehensive analysis of the problem, the

Youth seems to be "on trial" in many cities these days. But does anyone doubt what the final verdict will be?



Courtesy York, Pa., Pennsylvania Dutch Canteen

charge was framed as follows:

"John and Mary Youth" were charged with inability to conduct themselves as responsible members of the community." From this point on, the planning and operating of the project became the joint responsibility

of a special steering committee composed of nine youths and eight adults. This committee had two major responsibilities — to collect resources and prepare publicity.

In the meantime, in the Congress and Club meetings of the house groups and the Youth Council with which the agency has extension contact, a good deal of discussion was taking place about the curfew. There was great indignation and considerable fear and anxiety. There was the feeling that perhaps the curfew was the panacea, but "not for me"; the "other side of the tracks" was where it was needed.

In the midst of this anxiety and feeling, reflecting the attitudes in the community, the trial was announced for a month later. (Simultaneously and significantly the local Chamber of Commerce convened a meeting of youth and organized them into a Congress of Youth on Delinquency, as a self-controlling mechanism.)

The response to the trial was enthusiastic, especially by those who felt in some way maligned, and there was eagerness to put it on at once. Many of us also felt that it had to be staged quickly for fear the subject

was topical and might soon be played out. However, in recognition of the fact that the trial was essentially a youth project, a minimum of a month's preparation was held to. It is recognized that the values of such an experience might have been much greater had not the elements of time and topical concern been present.

Organizing the Project

Two practicing attorneys volunteered to work with the young people who came forward to play the parts of attorneys for the defense and the prosecution. A former City Court judge agreed to advise his youthful counterpart. The Court Clerk visited an actual courtroom to observe the way in which this real functionary operated. In order to expedite the activity of the two legal panels a special device was used. The "witnesses," adults professionally concerned about youth, were asked to prepare an outline of their testimony in advance. This served as a basis for each panel to organize the content for the trial.

The activity of the youth personnel who took part in the trial was the highlight of the entire project. The panels met regularly each week with their adult advisers. In many cases they visited each of the witnesses to discuss the testimony in advance. Publications from the Children's Bureau, the National Recreation Association, and other sources of information on the subject were secured. Two sets of alternate suggestions were prepared at the outset as a basis for analysis of the subject. For example, the prosecution was asked to survey the facts of youth's misbehavior; its failure to share in the war effort in contrast to Allied youth; its inattention to studies; neglect of the Church and the home; the "good time" attitude and the exploitation of their elders' concentration on the war. In short, could they prove that youth was shiftless and aimless and that we could afford such a state.

The defense was asked to view the sources of the charge. Has youth a fair chance? Have its needs been understood and met? What effect has the war had on the attitude of the community and parents toward children? What actually was youth's contribution in the armed forces, and industry, and civilian war services?

Two young people undertook the onerous roles of "Mary and John Youth." With a minimum of aid from the staff they prepared their defense. Their sincerity and simplicity impressed all who heard them at the trial.

During the month of preparation, regular publicity was sent to the local press and other outlets. A good relationship resulted with the newspapers through personal contact. Their report of the trial could serve as an excellent review of the proceedings. For the membership and youth at large an attractive "subpoena" was stencilled. The witnesses who participated included a police safety officer, a psychiatrist, a probation officer, the guidance director of the Board of Education, a Y.M.C.A. executive, a Presbyterian minister, the Junior Red Cross director, a U.S.E.S. worker, and a family case worker.

Because of limitation of time it was decided that the jury would be drawn from the audience, except that various youth agencies and groups were asked to recommend in advance the names of young people who would be interested. Furthermore, several hundred ballots were prepared to permit audience participation in the form of voting on the verdict and making specific recommendations.

The trial took place on February 22nd during a bitter sleet storm. Yet over 400 people attended, mostly adolescents who were members of house clubs, Youth Council, and the Youth Congress.

Let us quote in part from the newspaper writeup:

"John and Mary Youth were freed last night from charges of 'inability to conduct themselves as responsible members of society.'

"They were acquitted by a jury of their peers that weighed the evidence of their elders in a 'court' session that filled the 500 seats in the J.Y.M.-W.A. auditorium. The trial was sponsored by the JY youth activities committee.

"The trial developed with singular unanimity between the witnesses for the defense and for the prosecution, whose testimony hit one ever-recurring note: That youths are the reflection of the adults.

"Grown-ups who chisel on ration coupons, live by 'topsy turvy' social standards, precipitate a world chaos and generally set bad examples should, as an attorney for the defense contended in summation, be 'surprised' at the ability youth has shown to cope with the strains of wartime.

"Ten attorneys, all youths, comprised the eloquent legal array before the bench of youthful 'Judge' James Raz, while those called to the witness stand represented social, educational, enforcement, religious and employment agencies."

The testimony turned out to be somewhat repetitive. However, only one case of stage fright occurred. Most of the youngsters had only one "dress rehearsal" before the trial was held for the purpose of orienting themselves to the courtroom procedure. Discussion at the trial, therefore, was extemporaneous and many instances of spontane-

eous import occurred. A great deal of poise and quick thinking was shown by the youngsters throughout in the way they conducted themselves.

Three hundred ballots were cast by the audience. A later analysis of the votes showed 11.6 per cent were for the verdict of guilty; 73.4 per cent non-guilty; 12.9 per cent remained doubtful. Fewer votes were cast on the question of restrictions; 8.9 per cent were for some restriction; 33.2 per cent dissented.

The verdict of the jury, prepared in advance, turned out to be anti-climactic. It was long and exhortatory before declaring Mary and John Youth not guilty. Reaction to the trial varied: Some felt it was a "fraud," a put-up job, as if they had felt so keenly about the issues that nothing short of a definitive judgment would suffice. Others felt it was so impressive that regular trials should be held frequently and parents be given their day in court.

The 300 ballots, while no conclusive proof of community or even youth sentiment, still showed an index of the true feelings that existed among them. Suggestions involving community action for policing of taverns, increased recreation facilities, parent education, and similar matters were also voiced.

It is interesting to note these reactions. Many of them show the lines of action our and other agency programs take. Above all, the audience reaction both from the attendance and talk which followed justified the effort put into this kind of project.

By this writing, the jury of young people has had several meetings to review and specify the recommendations in their verdict. The wish to do something more than merely render a verdict resulted in their presentation of a recreational plan to the newspapers. Beyond that, each member of the jury decided to go on with his regular groups and through them to support youth activities. It is interesting that the Youth Congress on Delinquency particularly felt enheartened by the trial and the testimony.

A follow-up meeting of the trial personnel was held. There was no attempt to "sell" them any mission for special activities of this sort. The young people themselves evinced mixed interest about forming into a special group. They decided to "mull" it over individually. Already several have decided that there would be a special reason for organizing into a group for further study and action on their problems.

Conclusion

The "Trial by Youth" as a technique or special youth project justifies itself only as it is related to the regular program of the agency, or as it may relate to the launching of new or special programs. As an end in itself it is effective only in so far as the individuals concerned are involved in its planning and achievement.

From the agency point of view, it serves to bring to the attention of its membership and the wider community its willingness to face and contribute to acute problems young people have. In this way the agency fulfills its purpose and obligation as a youth-serving agency.

On these counts, the agency accomplished its major aims, providing a special method to throw light on a current and crucial issue, and to emphasize its regular activities for young people. It acknowledged that the "Trial" was not a charge against any person, family or organization. The charge was against an attitude in youth and adults in the community.

The agency hopes and believes that the trial helped the people of its city to understand the vital needs and interests of its youth, and to be ready to give support to constructive programs on their behalf.

This is what a police surgeon, Dr. Theron W. Kilmer, had to say about hobbies at the annual convention of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (July 1944):

"The brain must have a diversity of thought or else it will become sluggish. The human system must of necessity have an outlet for the strenuous work of the average citizen. Next to the possession of a birth certificate the most essential asset to happiness and health is some kind of hobby.

"Nerve tire is manifested in a great variety of ways. You become nervous and ill-tempered. You go from one thing to another. You do not sleep well, and your appetite fails. These are all red flags of nerve tire. You must have some other outlet for your energy. Take up some kind of hobby—collecting stamps, leaves, books. Take up photography, anything that will stir your mental effort into another channel than the one that is now overworked.

"A great deal is said nowadays about juvenile delinquency. I have never seen a juvenile delinquent who had a hobby or whose parents had a hobby. Get children interested in something and they will not go wrong."

Police Captain a Friend of Youth

WITHOUT an appropriation, without a budget, and without paid leadership, Somers Point, New Jersey, has a youth program which larger places might well envy. But Somers Point has Capt. William Morrow of its police department and a group of men who have associated themselves with him. And it has proven that in towns with such "spark plugs" appropriations and budgets are incidental.

Last fall the only movie in Somers Point closed. With 281 of the town's young men in the service and many of its older people driving four hours a day to and from work in a Camden shipyard, there weren't many left to patronize it. But the town still had youth up to eighteen years of age with little to do.

Capt. Morrow, with five daughters and a boy of his own, went to the School Board and asked use of an unused manual training room. On his second appearance, he was successful. A boys' club was organized with age limits of 10 to 18 years. A local citizen came forward with an unsolicited contribution of \$50, and a punching bag, games, basketball, and gymnasium equipment were purchased. Capt. Morrow built a ping-pong table. The Somers Point library stocked some books boys want—books on how to box, wrestle, play table tennis and basketball. That unused schoolroom was humming with activity.

Membership climbed until seventy-three boys were members, including all of the twenty-four high school boys in town.

The room is in use every night except Saturday and Sunday with a volunteer adult always in attendance. The club has fourteen adult honorary members

There are only about 2,000 people in Somers Point, New Jersey, but among them is a police officer with imagination and a real interest in youth, and back of him a group of individuals willing to give their time and money in support of a program of recreation for the town's young people.

—persons who assist in supervision or who have made donations. Incidentally, total donations have now exceeded \$350 and none has been solicited.

In addition, the School Board has granted use of the gymnasium for at least two nights a week. A boys' basket-

ball game is held one night a week, a girls' game another night. Numerous teams of both boys and girls have been organized so that all who desire have a chance to play. Boys and their parents turn out by the score to root for the girls and vice versa. The senior boys' and girls' teams are enrolled in a league playing out-of-town games. Basketball has been the principal winter activity. Plans provide for making baseball and swimming meets leading summer sports.

Dances are held frequently after the basketball games with music provided by a juke box loaned by a juke box vendor.

"Schools are the logical place for recreation centers," Mayor Fred Chapman asserts. "They have excellent plants which must be heated and are normally in use only about five hours out of the twenty-four." (Additional cost to the School

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Always fun, horseshoe pitching becomes an exciting sport when the decision is close!



Courtesy Chester, Pa., Recreation Board

The Community Use of Schools

AT THE MOMENT we are more than ever conscious of the place of recreation. It can be and is a powerful morale builder both for civilians and men and women in the armed forces. Now more than ever American communities desperately need the unifying influences of recreative activity. It strikes me that one of the historic functions of recreation is this very strengthening of the bonds of community life. We have

long recognized this in the schools by introducing a wide offering of extracurriculum activities. That has built morale and *esprit de corps*. It has built loyalty to the school and a community-mindedness.

The schools have several responsibilities in relation to recreation. Although the statement is contrary to the practice of many, their obligation and opportunity do not end with the children who are actually enrolled in the schools. They have an obligation to these children long after they have graduated. The education of today should anticipate the needs of those graduates when they go to work, get married, have children, and move on into the middle and later years of life.

Weaver Pangburn, field representative of the National Recreation Association, cites six obligations of the schools with which I agree:

He says first that it is fair to hold the schools responsible for laying a foundation for recreation by teaching activities in physical education that can be enjoyed beyond the years of the strenuous "big muscle" sports. In other words, they must teach such things as tennis, badminton, folk dancing, swimming, and shuffleboard, in addition to basketball and football.

Second, the curriculum of teacher training institutions should include subjects having to do with leisure, recreation, music, drama, arts, crafts, and nature, and such courses should be motivated by the community approach.

Third, the texts and curricula of the schools should reflect the interests of community life. This

By IRVIN ROSA
Superintendent of Schools
Davenport, Iowa

In April 1944, the twenty-first annual Midwest District Conference of Public Recreation Executives was held in Davenport, Iowa, under the auspices of the National Recreation Association in cooperation with the Davenport Board of Park Commissioners. At the meeting Mr. Rosa discussed recreation from the point of view of the superintendent of schools in his relation to the community recreation program. What he had to say will interest all recreation executives and laymen promoting the movement.

should be true of mathematics, reading, English, as well as other subjects.

Fourth, junior and senior high school courses should introduce the students specifically to community recreation and should inspire them to take a positive action and attitude toward it as participants and as citizens.

Fifth, school property should be designed and built with a view to much use after school hours as a part

of the community recreation system. There should be three to five acres of outdoor recreation space adjacent to every elementary school and a minimum of ten to twenty acres at junior and senior high schools. All school buildings should have gymnasiums or large recreation rooms, auditoriums, kitchens, and miscellaneous other rooms suited to clubs, crafts, and sewing, so that the school may serve as a community center. Gymnasiums and auditoriums should be located on the ground floor and made accessible to the general public. It should be possible to shut them off from the classrooms and heat them separately.

Sixth, the board of education should be represented on the official commission or the community committee responsible for the community recreation program. The schools have a big interest in the success of this program which should build on and not in any way destroy the effects of good leisure time training in the schools. This is not to say that the schools should be loaded with responsibility for the recreation program, unless there is no prospect that the work can be done well under other public auspices.

In Rochester, Minnesota, we faced a situation where there was much costly duplication. The Park Board and the Board of Education each sponsored its own recreation program in the summer and winter. Friction and a great deal of unnecessary cost were the result. A group of men got together, including three board members from the schools, three from parks, the superintendent

of parks, and the superintendent of schools ex-officio, and employed a director of recreation. They also employed throughout the year, a paid staff of fifteen or twenty people, chiefly school people. This arrangement worked out exceedingly well.

If the school facilities are to be widely used by recreation agencies, what are the obligations of these agencies?

1. We have a right to expect trained and professional leadership. These people must know young people and adults, know how to work with them, and how to get effective results. They must offer a program that gears with, instead of against, the school program. The schools must feel that it is a program touching all areas and levels of community life, that it is well planned and adequately executed.

2. We have a right to expect intelligent use of school property. Boards of education are rightfully zealous in their desire to protect the public property entrusted to them. When use of this property is granted for any purpose they have a right to expect that care will be exercised in its use and that every opportunity will be taken to utilize the channels of recreation in teaching citizenship in the care of public property.

3. We have right to expect that supervisors shall be on the job. They shall be on the job before the first youngster or adult arrives, and they shall be the last one out of the building except the custodian.

4. We have a right to expect that the recreation program shall consist of more than a little physical activity. It should include opportunity for dramatics, music, the arts and crafts, hobbies of various sorts.

5. In these days of overtime for custodians, we have a right to expect the wise use of facilities both from the standpoint of time and function.

6. We might as well recognize that all public services, including the schools and other recreation agencies, will face presently a crucial problem in finance. The natural and inevitable reaction to great war spending will be a closer scrutiny of the local tax dollar and how it is spent. No right

thinking person will deny that there is need in every community for a well-rounded, well-correlated, and well-integrated program of health, recreation, physical education, and safety. But we cannot justify from the standpoint of finance, or from the point of view of maximum return in service per tax dollar spent, duplication, isolation, friction, or controversy among those responsible for these important functions. These activities must be organized in a manner that is administratively sound. Maximum service, economy of operation, and centralization of responsibility are imperative. Petty jealousies and desire for control must be subordinated to service and efficiency.

Where recreation for the out-of-school hours of youth and for adults is centered in an agency outside the school, both it and the school must work together in the development of a closely knit program. The outside agency must analyze closely the recreative activity of the school and gear its own offering accordingly. The school must take into account the need for close cooperation with the recreation leaders.

Finally, there is need for careful community planning both for education and recreation. Future city growth should be plotted carefully with the needs for those areas closely in mind. There must be dynamic leadership by leaders of education and recreation. They must be men and women whose voice is heard and listened to, who have the confidence of their communities, who don't make too many mistakes, and whose judgments are trusted. There is a tremendous responsibility and task. It is no job for weaklings. Unless I miss my guess, the democratic public is less and less content with those who seek security in public office, and more and more desirous of courageous leadership.

No greater challenge ever existed than will presently confront all social agencies. The degree to which they will be tolerated, and encouraged, and promoted will depend in large part on the nature of their major contribution to social welfare. That will be the supreme test in the minds of the people. No nation physically weak and tired, or mentally tired and neurotic, can long survive. We need physical and emotional as

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It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

Cap'n Bill's Column of Nature-Grams

CARVER, George Washington. "I Knew Carver," by G. Lake Imes. Twenty-four page pamphlet. Twenty-five cents each. Good Will, Inc., 1940 Druid Hill Avenue, Baltimore 17, Maryland. Born of slave parents, Dr. Carver produced 325 products from the peanut, and 108 from the sweet potato. More than seventy schools and societies have been named in his honor.

Conservation. A postwar program. "An all-out conservation program would offer greater enjoyment of life through increased recreational facilities. Most of us like and enjoy the out-of-doors. We like to see things grow. We like to hunt and fish. A program which would conserve our soil, water and forests would also have a highly beneficial effect on wildlife. . . . Such planning takes time. Surveys must be made first, and technicians require time to prepare plans for Congressional consideration." From an address by Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, before the Annual North American Wildlife Conference at Chicago, April 25, 1944.

Danville's Nature Program is infectious. Since June 1943 the Recreation Commission of Danville, Virginia, has conducted a very active nature program. In the summer of 1943 when the hikes, field trips, bird walks and other activities were started, it was found that about ninety per cent of the children had never been in a woodland. Over 6,000 youngsters and adults in this community of 22,000 people attended the nature hikes during the summer and fall. When spring came, 600 took part in the bird house and nature exhibit contest.

The Farmer's Year. "Spring on the Farm," fifteen minutes; "Summer on the Farm," thirteen minutes; "The Crown of the Year," ten minutes; "Winter on the Farm," sixteen minutes. Illustrating work of British farmers. All 16 mm. sound films; nominal service fees. Apply College Film Center, 84 E. Randolph Street, Chicago.

Gardening. "10,000 Garden Questions Answered by Fifteen

Experts," F. F. Rockwell, editor. Doubleday, Doran & Co., New York. 1467 pp., illus. \$3.95.

"**Minerals:** Their Identification, Uses, and How to Collect Them," by Herbert S. Zim and Elizabeth K. Cooper. Harcourt Brace & Co., Inc., New York. 368 pp., illus. \$3.

Nature Training School, to train boys and girls from nine to sixteen for leadership in the field of nature education, under the auspices of the Worcester, Massachusetts, Museum of Natural History, began its fourth season on June 26, 1944. Eight members of last year's school acted as junior instructors in various clubs and six others served as junior guides at the Museum.

Roosevelt Field Club is a nature club for juniors sponsored by the Buffalo, New York, Museum of Science. Organized in 1920 with Professor William P. Alexander as field leader, it now has over 3,000 members. It would be interesting to know how many former members have a nature hobby.

Science. "To the flourishing of science, that science does not segregate itself from the people . . . but is ready to serve the people and to transmit to the people all the conquests of science; science which serves the people, not under compulsion but voluntarily, willingly." A famous toast made by Premier Stalin. The interpretation of science to the general public is a privilege of recreation leaders through natural history museums, zoological and botanical gardens, parks, aquaria, planetaria and other media of nature recreation.

Science Booklets for high school age are available through School Service, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co., 306 Fourth Avenue, P. O. box 1017, Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania. Generously illustrated. Indicate why you want these aids . . . for example, use in a science club.

Sycamore Stump, largest in the world, 56 feet in circumference, is located in Highland Park, Kokomo, Indiana. On April 26, 1944, a group of children had the old stump "talk" over the radio. The tree

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WORLD AT PLAY

Halloween in St. Paul

RESULTS of the 1943 Halloween celebrations sponsored by the Department of Parks, Playgrounds and Public Buildings in cooperation with Legion posts. The destruction of property during the evening was very minor.

The programs provided at the neighborhood parties held—and there were 122 of them—included costume parties, bonfires, movies, dancing for adults and teen-agers, races, games, singing, and similar activities. It was estimated that over 10,000 boys, girls, and adults enjoyed the parties.

Asleep at the Pitch

MILTON Abbas, in Dorset, as a village model for postwar reconstruction. In Milton Abbas, the church faces the almshouse at the center of the hamlet, the vicarage faces the brewery at one end, the school opposes the hospital at the other; all snugly lined on a sloping road in a wooded cleft.

The suggestion stirred talk. Last week the talk produced an added list of essentials for the villages of postwar Britain:

Village green containing a cricket pitch with trees for the faithful to doze under during cricket matches.

Reading room with a table for snooker, to be played "on a cloth untrue with a twisted cue and elliptical billiard balls."

Indoor Gauping Place, preferably a smithy or a cobbler's shop, for

CITIZENS of St. Paul, Minnesota, enthusiastically praised the results of the 1943 Halloween celebrations sponsored by the Department of Parks, Playgrounds and Public Buildings in cooperation with Legion posts.

lengthy conversations and lengthier silences.

Outdoor Gauping Place, preferably a town pump, where villagers can see what goes on at home while hearing, from fellow gossips, what goes on elsewhere.—From *Time*, January 3, 1944. Published by permission.

A New Course in Arts and Crafts

THE Los Angeles, California, Department of Playground and Recreation an-

nounces a new series of handcraft classes at the Barnsdall Playground arts and crafts center designed to provide instructors to teach arts and crafts in hospitals. Men and women who want to learn the use of practical arts and crafts in the rehabilitation of war veterans may take the courses free, paying only a nominal fee for the use of tools and equipment. The subjects taught include pottery, jewelry, leather tooling, wood carving and woodcraft, hand and foot loom weaving, and block printing.

In addition to the regularly scheduled classes, the arts and crafts center will be open for individual work, and tools, and equipment may be used whenever the director is on duty.

More Parks for Dallas, Texas

THE acquisition of forty more parks, the establishment of a recreation area within a half mile of every residence, and the development of a scenic green belt around the city has been recommended to city officials of Dallas, Texas, in a master plan report on parks and schools filed by Harland Bar-





Backbone . . . not Wishbone!

If the Pilgrims and their loyal women folk had had wobbly *wishbones* in place of their sturdy backbones; if the backbones of the patriots at Valley Forge had been wishy-washy—America, land of the free today, *could* have ended in wishful thinking.

But the men who discovered, dreamed, worked and fought to build our great democracy, put their own steely courage into the backbone of this nation. It is backbone that *shows* whenever the chips are down.

You see it in our modern industrial marvels that began in a little iron-founder's shop less than two centuries ago.

You see it in our scientific miracles—in our agricultural achievements—and in our mighty war effort, today.

Have you considered that the maintenance of America's superb backbone lies in our matchless *youth* power? It does.

Out there on the playfields of our great democratic nation, where our youth—our potential manpower—fight to the last ditch in friendly fierceness,

for a coveted goal—in vigorous, man-to-man, competitive sports—the *backbone* of our *nation* is renewed and stiffened.

On these battle fields of competitive play our boys and girls, too, learn initiative, courage, determination, fighting spirit, will-to-win despite all odds, tempered with fair play.

And on these fields is inculcated into their minds and hearts an unrealized appreciation of what it means to live in a *free* America. Try to take this freedom of theirs away from them—this personal privilege to think and dream and do in freedom—to be oneself—to fight for a goal and win it—and that realization will become a living flame. And in this fact is our greatest

guarantee that America will continue to be the land of the free.

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tholomew and Herbert Hare. A feature of the plan is the recommendation that large parks be developed in four areas around Dallas. These parks, to be created where there are none now, are to be developed with picnic units and other recreation facilities. Many would be located so the land could be used for school sites as well as recreation areas. More widespread use of school buildings for community centers will be part of the program.

Janitors Like It Too!—Near the end of a recreation leaders' institute on social recreation held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the janitor who stayed every night and worked late to keep the room in order was asked if he would be glad when the last day arrived. He replied: "No, Miss, this is just what we've needed for a long time. I wish it would last two weeks. They all have a good time."

Loan Collections of Art—An interesting activity of the University of Iowa Union is its loan collection of fine reproductions. Any student or professor in the University or any citizen in the town may borrow a picture to try out in his room or use in his home on the payment of one dollar

per semester. There has been such a demand for the loan of these reproductions that it has been impossible to meet it. Servicemen in training at the University have greatly appreciated this privilege.

Farmers Use School Facilities—The rural Central School at Wallkill, New York, has placed its shop facilities at the disposal of farmers in that area every Monday and Wednesday night at 7:30. The farmers have every opportunity to use the shops to repair and construct farm machinery. This gives opportunity for farmers to improve their equipment and to ease the burden of wartime restrictions on new equipment. The teacher of shop and vocational agriculture is present at all sessions to help the farmers.

Father-Son Activities Sponsored—In co-operation with the school authorities, Salt Lake City, Utah, opened six centers in junior high schools for father and son activities. School shops and gymnasiums were made available for craft and physical programs. Plans are also under way to provide sewing, cooking and recreation activities for mothers and daughters.

A Contest for Victory Gardeners—To encourage victory gardeners in their efforts to produce vitally needed food for civilian and war uses, the National Victory Garden Institute, 598 Madison Avenue, New York 22, is sponsoring a "Green Thumb" contest for both young people and adults. In the adult division of the contest a \$1,000 War Bond is offered to the national winner. There will be state contests with a special trophy award for the prize winner in each state participating. In the children's 3-V "Green Thumb" contest, stressing the importance of vegetables for vitamins and vitality, a \$500 War Bond will be awarded the national winners in both the elementary and high school divisions.

Contestants will be required to enter a completed Green Thumb Record Book with the appropriate victory garden chairman or local sponsors not later than October 1, 1944. This record book, which is available to all victory gardeners entering the contest, provides a means of keeping a record of what, when, and how much is planted and harvested. The contest will take into consideration neatness and originality, planting arrangement, choice of crops and average yields, quantity and quality, and use made of the crops.



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Our fighting men have to get their fun where they find it! You'll find them playing ball on rugged playing fields carved out of jungles, on rough, sandy beaches, on Central Pacific sharp coral atolls — on surfaces that quickly chew up athletic ball covers. Voit Synthetic-Rubber-Covered Athletic Equipment outwears other equipment on these rough surfaces.

In the extremely humid South Pacific jungles, where the annual average rainfall is 120 inches, the steaming dampness penetrates everywhere. Fungus growth and mildew attack everything within a few days. Even here, Voit Synthetic-Rubber-Covered Athletic Equipment does not deteriorate — it resists the ravages of *high humidity, fungus, and mildew*.

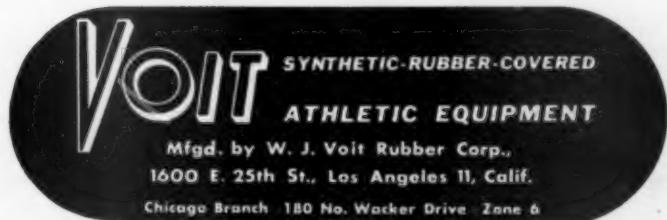
In many places where our men are fighting, it's hot — as hot as 140° in some spots. Voit Synthetic-Rubber-Covered Athletic Equipment resists this intense heat which dries out other balls.

Thus climatic and surface conditions that "play havoc" with ordinary equipment simply mean "play ball" for Voit Synthetic-Rubber-Covered Athletic Equipment. In this way, Voit helps make morale-building athletic programs possible for our fighting men all over the world. That's why they're getting the big bulk of Voit output — why there's only a limited supply of Voit Basketballs, Footballs, Soccer Balls, Volley Balls, Soft Balls, Water Polo Balls, and Home Plates available for essential civilian users.

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Sunday Evening Recreation in Lancaster — Lancaster, Pennsylvania, moved a step nearer to helping its youth find creative opportunities when fifteen pastors met at the Co-Ed Club with adult recreation and youth leaders of the city and representatives of the young people themselves. At the meeting plans were approved for an experimental series of five Sunday evening recreation and fellowship programs during July. The plans called for a special committee, including pastors, young people and adult youth leaders, to arrange for each Sunday evening. A parish hall was offered by one of the ministers but general opinion favored outdoor recreation, perhaps in one of the city's parks.

Florham Park Opens a Playground — On June 28, 1944, Florham Park, a small community in New Jersey, opened its first playground under the leadership of a director, a paid assistant, and volunteer leaders. To raise money for the summer's activities a community festival was held at which about \$400 was cleared. A 25 cent ticket entitled the visitor to a frankfurter, baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, and coffee. Additional frankfurters and coffee, soft drinks, cake and ice

Water Sports in Georgia

COVERING AN AREA of eighty-six acres inside the city limits of Augusta, Georgia is city-owned Julian Smith Lake, which the Recreation Commission is developing for swimming, boating and other water activities. Previously the lake had been used for the special programs of a boating club organized by local citizens.

The city Recreation Department is now planning to promote various types of activities on this lake. They are planning to purchase canoes, boats, and kayaks, which will be rented to the citizens of Augusta at a nominal charge. The program will center around special contests and boat races with motor boats which are privately owned by citizens living around the lake. The Army has consented to put on demonstrations of "amphibious" landing craft and other types of water equipment used by the Army.

Plans for developing this lake area will include a boat house, where citizens owning private boats can store their equipment for a nominal charge. The city will purchase various equipment, offering the people of the community an opportunity to take part in a boating program that the Recreation Commission feels is very important in a well-rounded recreation program. Plans are also being made to organize and promote various clubs for young boys and girls who will be taught how to row and handle boats.

In speaking of the program, Mr. Oka T. Hester, director of recreation, said this, "We hope to create interest in the older group so that they will help us in our promotion of boating for young boys and girls. So far, the older group has shown an interest to the extent of seventy-five members who are interested in organizing this club for the lake. We feel that boating is a part of the recreation program and we are doing all in our power to promote this activity in our program."

RECREATION will be interested in hearing what other cities are planning in the field of water sports. Write us about your city!

cream were sold. All the food, with the exception of the frankfurters, ice cream and soft drinks, was donated. Games were played, and pony rides were enjoyed by the children. Between 450 and 500 people attended the festival which was held on the school grounds.

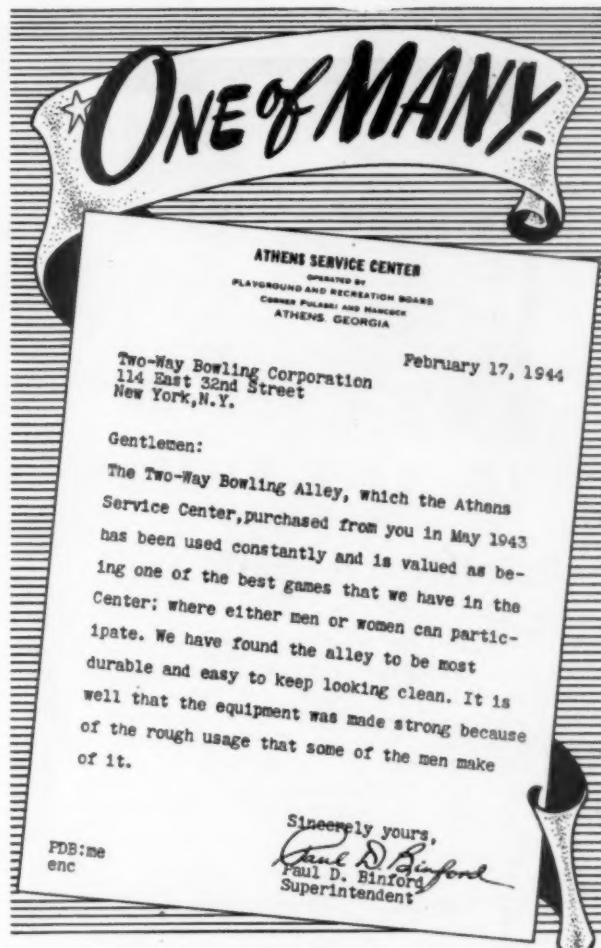
Airports as Recreation Areas

THE AIRPORT is a natural attraction and center of interest. Airports will not only attract air traffic in increasing volume, but they will act as a magnet for growing numbers of sightseers as comprehensive planning and well designed buildings in a suitably landscaped setting make the airport an important local attraction. Airport marginal areas and airport station grounds will be developed for recreational purposes. If the urban planner does his job well, airports will become increasingly desirable places near which to live, and new communities will undoubtedly grow up around some of our air centers. The type of recreation offered will depend, among other factors, on climate; type of airport—whether for scheduled operation, industrial use, or private flying; and the individual needs and preferences of any given community.

Types of recreation areas suitable for airports may include parks, playgrounds, football and baseball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and fields for flying powered-model airplanes. Recreation areas where relative quiet is desirable will be spaced in those sectors of the marginal areas between the runway approaches where trees and structures could be placed which would fall within a glide-path angle of 7 to 1 as measured from the edge of the landing area. And, incidentally, parks and forest land on the marginal areas of some of our civil airports would be useful in affording concealment to the military planes operating off these airports in times of national emergency.

Recreation areas can also be developed and laid out in such a way as to bring in the auxiliary revenue to help balance airport budgets until volume of plane traffic is alone sufficient to do so. La Guardia Field, for example, in its first year of operation took in \$122,000 worth of dimes from turnstiles installed on the observation terrace which covers its 1,400-foot plane loading platform. Comprehensive and rational planning and efficient management can make the airport, I believe, into a self-supporting showplace of the community.

The creation of a suitable setting for the modern airport affords urban planners almost limitless possibilities.—From "Air Traffic and Airports in Relation to Urban Planning" by William A. M. Burden. *The American City*, December 1943.



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In Defense of Hobbies—Especially Stamp Collecting

(Continued from page 311)

This is a type of hoarding to which the government has no objection. There is, in fact, a special Philatelic Department in the post office which sells stamps exclusively to collectors, and in many of the large cities special windows are set aside for these sales.

The solicitude of the post office bears dividends in other ways. Stamp collectors are cranks who seek perfection, and some have been known to hang around in front of a window in a post office closely examining sheet after sheet of stamps

shown him by a patient clerk, in search of stamps in a particular position of the sheet or some in which the design is exactly in the center. Other stamp collectors sympathize with such scrutiny but some patrons, just wanting to buy a stamp to put on a letter, haven't always been patient with these perfectionists! So now a clerk in the post office looks over his stock of stamps and puts the best sheets aside for the stamp collectors.

Collecting is an activity of instinctive appeal. Either you like to collect things or you don't, and most people do like to collect something even when they call it "putting it aside in case it will come in handy some time." Psychiatrists tell us that the lack of satisfaction in any of the fundamental needs results in a compensatory type of behavior which may be quite detrimental to the individual's welfare. They say that collecting is a normal, basic desire of human beings and that a hobby has much to do with maintaining composure and mental freshness.

Living today is fraught with many distressing anxieties which tend to upset the equilibrium of many people. There are real values in any hobby in which we may be interested. The thrill of finding the rare and beautiful; the pleasure which comes from discovering a new item; the joy of discussing with friends something just acquired for one's collection give zest to any hobby and provide much satisfaction which helps in carrying us over the disappointments of life.

In London, during the great "blitz," public air raid shelters resembled collectors' clubs as men and women talked about their stamps or passed around a hastily snatched piece of china or other item from their hobby collections. The wardens found that these collectors, of all the people coming to the shelters, were the least given to hysterics, panic, or grumbling.

Through any hobby, but more especially stamp collecting, it is possible—at least in our opinion—to rediscover those mysterious and hidden pleasures that are to be derived from following our own interests and using our own efforts to produce masterpieces.

Columbia's Far-Flung Recreation Program

(Continued from page 298)

For the duration, the American Legion has turned over its hut for soldier recreation. Located in Maxcy Gregg Park, this hut is far from the noise of the city and nightly parties are enjoyed by soldiers and civilians.

Gonzales Gardens, Andrew Jackson and Allen-Benedict housing projects also lend their facilities for social and playground activities to servicemen, civilians and their families. The Columbia Recreation Program furnishes leaders to them.

Washington Street Methodist and the First Presbyterian churches have thrown open the doors of their recreation buildings to men in the armed forces, under city leadership assisted by church volunteers. Various church organizations assist with parties, dances and athletics.

Pretty girls are always on hand to play indoor basketball, table tennis, checkers, and card games and to dance. The boys also have available the reading room, as well as invigorating hot showers with towels.

Columbia's Recreation Program has a strong Negro program consisting of home hospitality, dancing and athletics. There are three community centers where preschools are held in the morning, teen age and soldier recreation in the afternoon and night.

Service officers, who discover the program upon arrival in the city, are amazed at the facilities and activities offered. Not only is the social life well taken care of but the home life as well, for there are lists of rooms and apartments which are available, a mending station where buttons and chevrons are sewed on, and nursery care centers, preschools, employment service, dancing classes, children's clubs, mothers' club, dramatic clubs and wholesome community life.

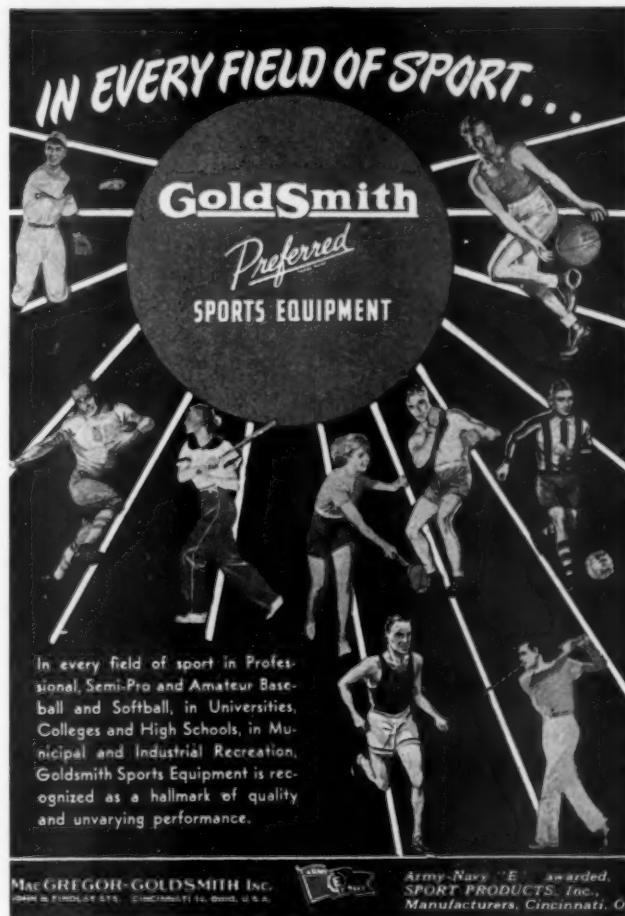
At all times the park facilities, including recreation cabin, preschools, playground equipment, picnic shelters and Dutch ovens are available to the public.

How Recreation Came to Norway, Maine

(Continued from page 310)

steps taken by Norway and the cooperating agencies so that people will see how really easy it is. We are helping her with this exhibit, sending her sample copies of some of the bulletins and the magazine, and also a few of the publications which will be helpful. Again in her own words Miss Williston says, "Of course I will tell all of the people that if they become members of the National Recreation Association they will be kept currently informed of developments in places like theirs, and they will find that they have made a very good and sound investment."

IS THIS THE END? NO—ONLY THE BEGINNING!



Sport Makes Good Flying Men

(Continued from page 305)

"In the preface to this latest manual of the Navy Pre-Flight Division, Captain F. T. Ward says: 'It is our duty to train the cadets to be superior to the enemy mentally and physically. Rigorous, tough, competitive sports offer an excellent medium to fulfill this mission. Records have proved that mental improvement goes hand in hand with better physical condition.'

"His remarks are particularly timely in view of observations on fitness recently made by Lieut. Col. Howard Berry of the Marine Corps. 'We have rejected more men,' he declared, 'than were in the armed forces last time. . . . The fitness of our citizens was a prewar problem; it is a war problem; it will be a problem in the postwar world.'"

The Community Use of Schools

(Continued from page 320)

well as mental strength and vitality. We must know how to recreate that strength and vitality. This is the joint responsibility of the schools and of recreation agencies. In isolation, each may be

You Can Use

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ineffective, if not harmful. Together, they possess untold possibilities for national welfare.

Square Dancing During Intermissions

(Continued from page 303)

Lady in the lead—single file, Indian style

(Gent puts the lady he swung in front of him)

Turn and swing her once in a while

Repeat five or six times

Circle all (one large circle)

Promenade all

Ladies keep on to the right single file

Gents turn back single file

Promenade all

Single file—Indian style—lady in the lead

Hands on the one in front of you

(Leader leads group into the center, and leading to the left makes the circle smaller and smaller until it is as tight as possible)

(Music stops)

Leader asks everyone to sit (very carefully) in the lap of the one behind him

All stand up

(Music begins again)

Hand on shoulders of one in front of you

Leader starts back in opposite direction and unwinds the group

There is another way of introducing square dancing without making a group feel that it is being forced upon them, and that is the plan of having a square dance going on in another room at the same time social dancing is being enjoyed in the main dance hall. A sign may be placed in the hall near the social dance group announcing that square dancing is being taught across the hall or on another floor. Where this has been tried it has been found that many young people will drop in to learn the dances.

Not Too Old to Enjoy Life

(Continued from page 314)

where old people have an opportunity to display their rare old keepsakes which give them such personal delight.

Clubs for older people (this has been done in Cleveland by the Benjamin Rose Institute).

Inviting the older people in the community, whether residents of institutions or not, to attend holiday celebrations and special functions where the "Father-Son" arrangement of the program is adapted to an audience representing several generations.

Checker tournaments, horseshoe matches, spelling bees, old fiddlers' contests, old-time singing schools, square dancing. Croquet, shuffleboard, checkers, halma, and other games known to be enjoyed by old people, including "old country" games, such as, "bocci" and "curling," should be provided.

A publication which has in it items of particular interest to older people, such as radio programs, interesting places to go, a calendar of events at the library and museum, easy recipes, suggested reading, original poetry, and editorials by the old folks themselves.

What Can We Do, or What Should We Do, in Our City?

Remind the Hobby League (which is part of the Playground Association) of the value of serving as a clearing house where hobbyists can get in touch with others of their same interest.

Remind churches of their responsibility to their own older adult congregation.

Remind city institutions, such as, schools, libraries, recreation centers, of the need for interesting older people in their programs.

See that institutions are aware of the persons on their waiting lists and, whenever possible, include them in the programs planned for the Home. (Perhaps other old people living in the neighborhood might be included, too.)

Suggest to recreation committees of the various Homes for the Aged to correspond or meet with each other and exchange ideas on recreation facilities, supplies, and programs.

Recommend to private agencies the possibilities of volunteer service in working with the aged, that is, writing letters, running errands, playing a new game, reading aloud, cooperating on a scrap-book,

and visiting with the excuse of doing these services, but primarily to *listen*.

Consider the possibility of a publication or even a regular column in a local newspaper devoted to interests of older people, especially those who feel "alone" and "aged."

Consider sponsoring a "treasure show" or hobby show.

Make further effort to keep institutions and those workers dealing with the aged people in their own homes informed of interesting things and exhibits which the old folks might attend and enjoy.

Recommend to recreation agencies that they consider old people in planning their programs, including them in as many activities as they now have, and arranging for others which may be particularly suited to their needs. These should include some consideration of how shut-ins can have some part in the agency's program.

Recreation a Developing Profession

(Continued from page 301)

because of our love for the work and the challenge it holds. Certainly the spirit in which recreation leaders do their work compares favorably with the spirit in which members of other professions discharge their obligations.

In Brief

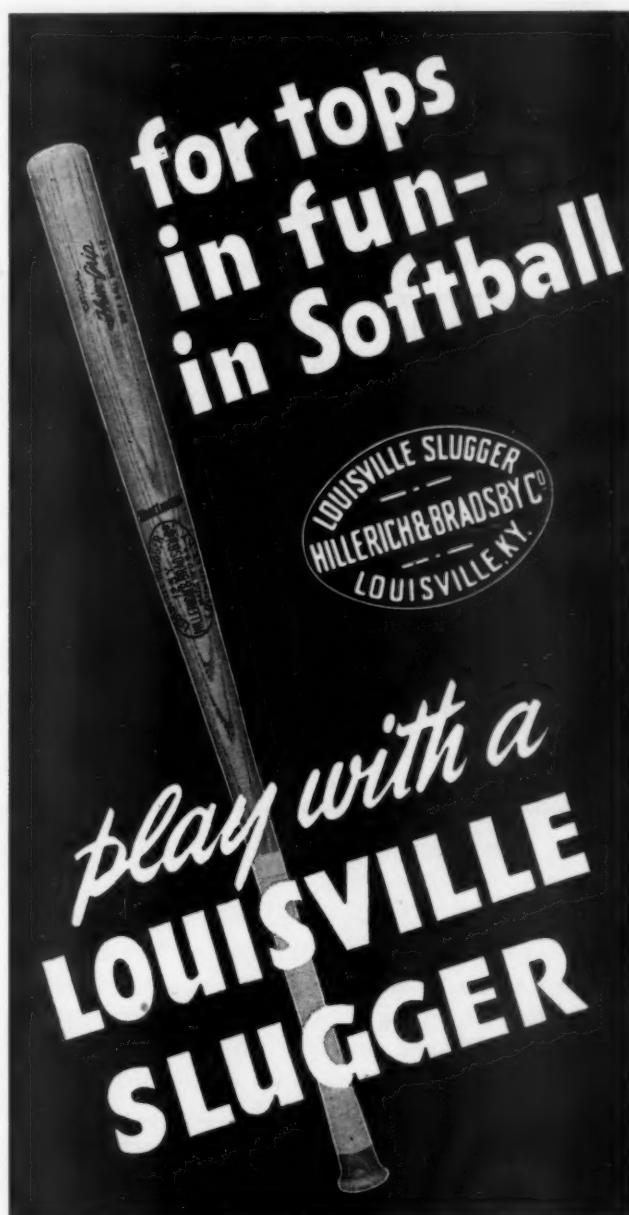
In summary, it appears that recreation is not yet a fully established profession but is a profession in the making. Although there are recreation leaders who may be classified as professional, the entire group does not yet meet the standards of a profession. Potentially, recreation is a profession. If recreation is to gain recognition professionally, we ourselves must take the initiative in maintaining and advancing standards.

Opportunities Offered by Your Social Centers

(Continued from page 309)

organized playgrounds, carries on activities in thirty-two indoor centers, and conducts municipal games, leagues, and tournaments in twenty-six different sports. (Extracts from article by Dorothy Enderis in *Annual Convention Publication—1943*—of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor.

"It has been said that a life without a hobby is like a house without windows."



That feeling of confidence when your softball hitters step up to the plate with a Louisville Slugger is one of those intangible but important things that makes champions. It always pays to play with the best!

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The enrollment fee of \$35 will bring you the specially written text, an opportunity to apply the text material to your own recreation problems, comments of an authority in the field on each lesson assignment, and a certificate upon satisfactory completion of the work.

One enrollee recently wrote, "*Truthfully I cannot remember any effort on my part which has paid off in dividends so quickly.*"

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THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING IN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

1313 East 60th Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

The Blair Community Center

(Continued from page 294)

The information was all collected and the project began shortly after the closing of regular school. Blair Community Center was open from 8:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon—the period of time during which the data showed there was the greatest need for child care. Those who wanted to stayed for the full day, as provisions were made for them to have lunch at the building. The children took an active part in the planning, preparation and serving of lunch and in the cleaning up, too. Many times vegetables from the school Victory Garden were served.

The general plan of the Center worked out somewhat as follows but the program was very flexible and varied from time to time:

8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.—Group and individual work and play consisting chiefly of sewing, weaving, garden work, cooking, handcraft, art work, baseball, checkers, puzzles

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.—Lunch and rest period

1:00 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.—Reading in the library. Individual help and guidance when needed. Children were able to check out books for home use every Friday

1:45 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.—Folk dancing, music, singing, group plays and dramatizations

2:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.—Games (individual and group), sewing, crocheting, embroidering, knitting, art, handcraft, weaving

No child was forced to follow this flexible program but rather his time was used according to his interests and needs. However, children were encouraged to finish work that they had started.

Many handcraft articles were made for the Junior Red Cross, such as the three very beautiful and colorful lap robes for the convalescing soldiers at the Percy Jones Hospital. One of the robes was so attractive that it was used for a wall hanging. Pillow covers were also made for the hospital, and the boys and girls wove blocks for a woolen afghan for the soldiers. The boys made a number of bean bag boards to be used in one of the recreation centers at Fort Custer, and stuffed animals and dolls were sent to the local day nursery.

There were also opportunities for the children to make various articles for their families and themselves—doll clothes, luncheon cloths and napkins, dolls, stuffed animals. The girls made "shaggy rugs" after studying colors and working out color schemes to fit in with their bedrooms at home. One girl went a step further and made a vanity skirt and stool for her bedroom.

Over 250 children were enrolled at the Center last year and they ranged from six months of age

to seventeen years. Of this number fifty-six were of preschool age. The older children shared responsibility in working with this group by reading to them, playing with them in the sand box, directing the use of the teeter and other equipment and helping with feeding and rest.

The Center project for the season was culminated by arranging an exhibit and program for the parents and other interested adults of the community. The program consisted of folk dancing, singing, and a marionette show for which the children had made their own marionettes and theater during the summer.

A Canteen for Teen-Agers

(Continued from page 293)

possible for youthful vocalists from the audience to display their talents over the mike.

Supervisors of the canteen are divided into two groups: adult and junior aides. The children collect the admission fees, serve at the refreshment counter and remind the patrons to keep the soda bar neat and orderly. The committee reports that there have been as many as 400 in attendance on one night, though the average is between 200 and 250.

The canteen, which had been very successful over the summer months, continued through the winter—in the afternoons and Friday and Saturday nights to avoid distraction from school work.

Many of the neighborhood churches and business men's and parent-teacher groups have given \$5 and \$10 donations though now the enterprise is more than solvent. All debts have been paid and the committee is several hundred dollars ahead. This money goes into the Community Council treasury to launch another program for the younger (doorkey) age groups.

Much praise has come from both parents and local pastors who have visited the canteen. The children themselves have made many favorable comments. One boy said to a committee member in a reproachful tone one night, "You should have done this long ago." And a judge as far away as Chester, Pennsylvania, told a mother who was blaming the courts for inadequately coping with the delinquency problem, "If you and your fellow citizens would follow the example set by the citizens of Roxborough, Manayunk and Wissahickon, by sponsoring a project similar to the Community Canteen, delinquency would be lessened."

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of Current Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

Hygeia, July 1944

A Break for the War Wounded, Rex M. King

The Journal of Health and Physical Education, June 1944

Current Problems in Recreation, H. D. Corbin
Developing Citizenship Through a Swimming Program, Clyde E. Mullis
Golf Libraries and Museums, O. M. Leland

Social Action, June 15, 1944

Children and Young People in Wartime Communities

The Camping Magazine, June 1944

Teaching Campers to Sail, Joyce Bertram
Camp Festivals, Paul K. Weinandy
Camping for Crippled Children, II, Ernest B. Marx

American City, July 1944

Swimming Pool Purification Without Smarting Eyes, F. B. Griffeth

Parents' Magazine, August 1944

We're Tired of Juvenile Delinquency, by a Seventeen-Year-Old High School Girl
Play Yard for a Toddler, Evelyn Emig Mellon

Beach and Pool, July 1944

Mass Instruction for Beginning Swimmers, Robert Roger
Efficient Filtering Mediums, H. G. Turner

Atlantic Monthly, June 1944

Working Around the Clock, Paul and Faith Pigors

Parks and Recreation, July - August 1944

London's Parks in Battledress, Harley V. Usill
The Maintenance Mart

PAMPHLETS

Our Concern—Every Child

State and Community Planning for Wartime and Postwar Security of Children. Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Summer Activities for Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts, 155 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Summer Fun for Girls and Boys

Group Work Division of the Council of Social Agencies, Greater Portland Community Chest, Portland, Maine.

Outdoors on Your Own

The American Home, 444 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y. Price 15 cents

RECENT PORTER SARGENT BOOKS

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"One of the few books on education that made any sense to me," Richard T. La Piere, Stanford U. "Extraordinarily good stuff," W. Lloyd Warner, U. of Chicago. "Complete and scholarly," Rockwell Kent. "A most stimulating book," Read Bain, Miami U., Ohio. "A must book for all men and women," Marco Morrow, Topeka. "A vigorous book," Merle Curti, U. of Wis. "A mine of information," Alliston Cragg. "Amount of information leaves me gasping," Maj.-Gen. J. F. C. Fuller, England. "Indispensable to the modern mind," John Haynes Holmes. "Discloses a remarkable intellect, breadth of understanding, unbelievable mental energy," George H. Tinkham.

Circulars and Table of Contents on Request

PORTER SARGENT, 11 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.

A People's Chorus and Community Orchestra

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promoted a series of Sunday Community Sings, and has given concerts for Parent-Teacher Associations, War Mothers, and similar groups. The director is glad to accept invitations to sing before community groups of all types, and the organization is very much in demand. These public performances give the group a definite reason for rehearsing, and the groups and players derive much pleasure from having audiences who appreciate them.

The Playground and Recreation Association plays an important part in the organization. It handles all publicity, types the song sheets, buys all original music and scores, takes care of dues (which are \$1.00 a year), and sponsors all programs. The director is paid by the Association, although eventually it is expected the organization will take care of its own finances, and may even break away from the Association altogether, as other organizations, such as the Little Theater and Civic Opera Company, have done.

Father Andrews and His Parishioners

FATHER ANDREWS, white pastor of St. Elizabeth's Church in the heart of the Negro slum section of St. Louis, is deeply concerned not only about the spiritual but material well-being of his parishioners and the entire Negro population of the city. He has organized Coal Cooperatives, Chicken Cooperatives, and initiated a number of other projects, among them the establishment of vacant lots as parks.

The story is told in the May 1944 issue of *Survey Graphic*, from which we quote.

"Shortly after the Detroit race riot, Father Andrews and a number of other St. Louis citizens, Negro and white, formed an interracial committee. The present Mayor, Aloys Kaufman, deeply interested in any move to forestall interracial troubles in St. Louis, proposed that the committee be enlarged, divided into subcommittees, each one charged with some specific phase of Negro welfare, and given official standing as the St. Louis Race Relations Commission.

"Through this official committee, Father Andrews is getting results on a recreation project that for over a year he has been promoting by word of mouth wherever he could get a listener: remodelling vacant lots into small playgrounds and parks in Negro slum areas. Most of the crowded houses have no porches and no yards. The public parks are miles distant. In hot St. Louis summers the residents have had either to stay cooped up in their rooms or hang around on the streets.

"Sprinkled over this area are parcels of land in 25, 50, and 75-foot lots that the city acquired for delinquent taxes. For years most of these vacant lots had been cluttered with rubble and wreckage after buildings were condemned and torn down. Father Andrews proposed that some of these lots be cleared, planted with grass seed, furnished with swings and sand piles for children and benches for older people. With Edwin B. Meissner, president of St. Louis Car Company and chairman of the Race Relations Commission, in the lead, this inexpensive conversion is now under way. Some will be ready for use by late spring, others by summer. The tiny, pleasant parks will make the city attractive and will help siphon off hot weather tension."

Police Captain a Friend of Youth

(Continued from page 318)

Board is only electricity for lights. All janitor service is done by the boys.)

"Although girls aren't formally included in our organization, their leagues and their attendance at the boys' games and dances take much of their time," Capt. Morrow explains. "We manage to keep all of the young people quite busy. From being a town with nothing to do, Somers Point has become a place with continuous activity."

Not only have these activities been made possible with no expense to taxpayers except that for a few electric lights, but the boys' club recently donated to the Red Cross \$100, much of which was raised by a basketball game. The organization also gave \$59 to the infantile paralysis campaign. Much of this money was raised by collecting scrap.

Boys pay an initiation fee of \$1 and dues of five cents a week. They make their own rules and no boy has ever yet dropped out of the club.

Plan War Memorial

The club is not using the treasury it has accumulated, saving it as the nucleus of a fund for an unusual memorial to its soldiers to be built after the war.

"The city owns some vacant land excellent for a baseball field," Capt. Morrow explains. "We expect to have from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in our treasury when the war ends. We have several old houses around town which aren't worth much but have some excellent timber in them. We hope to buy these houses and use the timber to build a fence and grandstand. This field would be our war memorial. I know the soldiers would prefer that to a granite pigeon roost. The town is filled with handy men who are willing to donate their labor. That is one practical way in which they can give vent to their appreciation of the sacrifices of our servicemen." — From *Community Recreation Bulletin*.

Recreation in Municipal Parks

(Continued from page 289)

memorize some event or person. Why shouldn't we recommend that these funds be diverted for recreation expansion, acquisition of land, construction of community buildings, year long swimming pools, and many other facilities from which the public can receive tangible benefits?

Our public parks now offer and are increasingly expanding recreational services. But the rate to

which the needs are met is directly proportionate to the effective methods that are devised for crystallizing public opinion, public provision of funds, and adequate methods for stimulating and administering a recreational program. School and college physical educators have a stake in our municipal parks. They will be as useful as you wish to make them.

It's Being Done in Nature Recreation

(Continued from page 321)

not only "told" local history for the Howard County Centennial Celebration, but presented the birds that it had heard through the century. Mary E. Cedars and Elizabeth Calhoun, descendants of early settlers, wrote the script.

Weather. "Everybody's Weather," by Joseph Gaer. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 96 pp., illus. \$2.

"Winter Victory Gardens," tells how to grow vegetables, flowers and berries indoors all winter. Virginia Larkin, Lark Publishing Company, 305 Walnut Street, Cincinnati 2, Ohio. \$1.

Wood. "Wartime Harvests from Farm Woodlands." U. S. Government Printing Office, 1944. Eight pages, illustrated. (AWI-80) Single copies free from Department of Agriculture.

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Musical Recreation 1944

Compiled by Lili Heimers, Ph.D. New Jersey State Teachers College, Upper Montclair, New Jersey. \$2.50.

A COLLECTION OF SOURCE MATERIAL including charts, films, slides and filmslides, pictures, publications, recordings, and phonograph records. The subjects covered include Bands and Orchestras, Songs, Plays and Pageants, Folk Festivals, Holidays, and Dancing.

Subdivision Regulations

—An Analysis of Land Subdivision Control Practices. By Harold W. Lautner. Public Administration Service, Chicago. \$2.90.

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY valuable compilation of principles and practices in subdivision planning and control. It includes a section on Standards and Design Requirements, with unusually helpful discussions of public open spaces such as playgrounds, parks, and school sites. It discusses accepted standards for different types of play areas and a review of local municipal requirements for the setting aside of such areas in new subdivisions by communities throughout the entire country.

In view of the expected large program of new subdivision development in the postwar period to meet the present shortage in housing, the discussions in this section should be of particular value to local recreation executives in making their own plans for making sure that new subdivisions in their communities are planned and developed in such a way as to provide for the necessary neighborhood and community recreation areas.

Baby Orang and Junior

By Katharine K. Garbutt. Pictures by Bernard Garbutt. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$85.

LITTLE CHILDREN will enjoy this story of the baby monkey and the elephant who became firm friends. This book is one of a series of attractive animal stories written for children. Another which will have a special appeal for children is *Muggins*, the story of a cat, by Bianca Bradbury; pictures by Diana Thorne (\$85).

You Can Make It

Things to Do with Scissors and Paste. By Louis V. Newkirk, Ph.D. and La Vada Zutter, M. A. Silver Burdett Company, New York 3. \$3.00.

MOST OF THE ARTICLES described in this book are made of paper, and the authors have offered a wide range of projects including personal adornments, toys and games, gifts and decorations for holidays and special occasions, projects and decorations for school and home, and for the library and study. One chapter is devoted to a discussion of materials, tools, and processes.

A list of the supplies needed is given at the beginning of each project, and text and illustrations combine to make it easy for a child to complete an article without help.

Nature Activities

—Week by Week Throughout the Year. By J. A. Partridge and D. E. Farwell. Wittemore Publishing Company, Ltd., 177 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Canada. \$2.50.

A DELIGHTFULLY ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET designed to bring to boys and girls more enjoyment and appreciation of nature through first-hand contacts with natural phenomena close at hand. Each chapter is devoted to activities for two months. Illustrations as well as printed matter suggest the week-by-week activities.

Symbols. A Practical Handbook

The Lutheran Walther League, 875 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. \$50.

HERE IS AN INTERESTING COLLECTION of Christian symbols which will be of great interest to all wishing to make use of such symbols in publications of various kinds. The revived interest in the traditional liturgy of the Christian symbolism and its beauty and significance make this a timely publication.

Free World Theatre

Nineteen New Radio Plays. Edited by Arch Oboler and Stephen Longstreet. Random House, 20 East 57th Street, New York 22. \$2.75.

TWENTY-ONE DISTINGUISHED screen and radio artists have collaborated to produce these plays, designed for propaganda-for-democracy programs. Quotations from world leaders have been utilized as the basic themes of the plays, all of which are available royalty free for non-commercial broadcasts provided they are used to further the war effort.

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